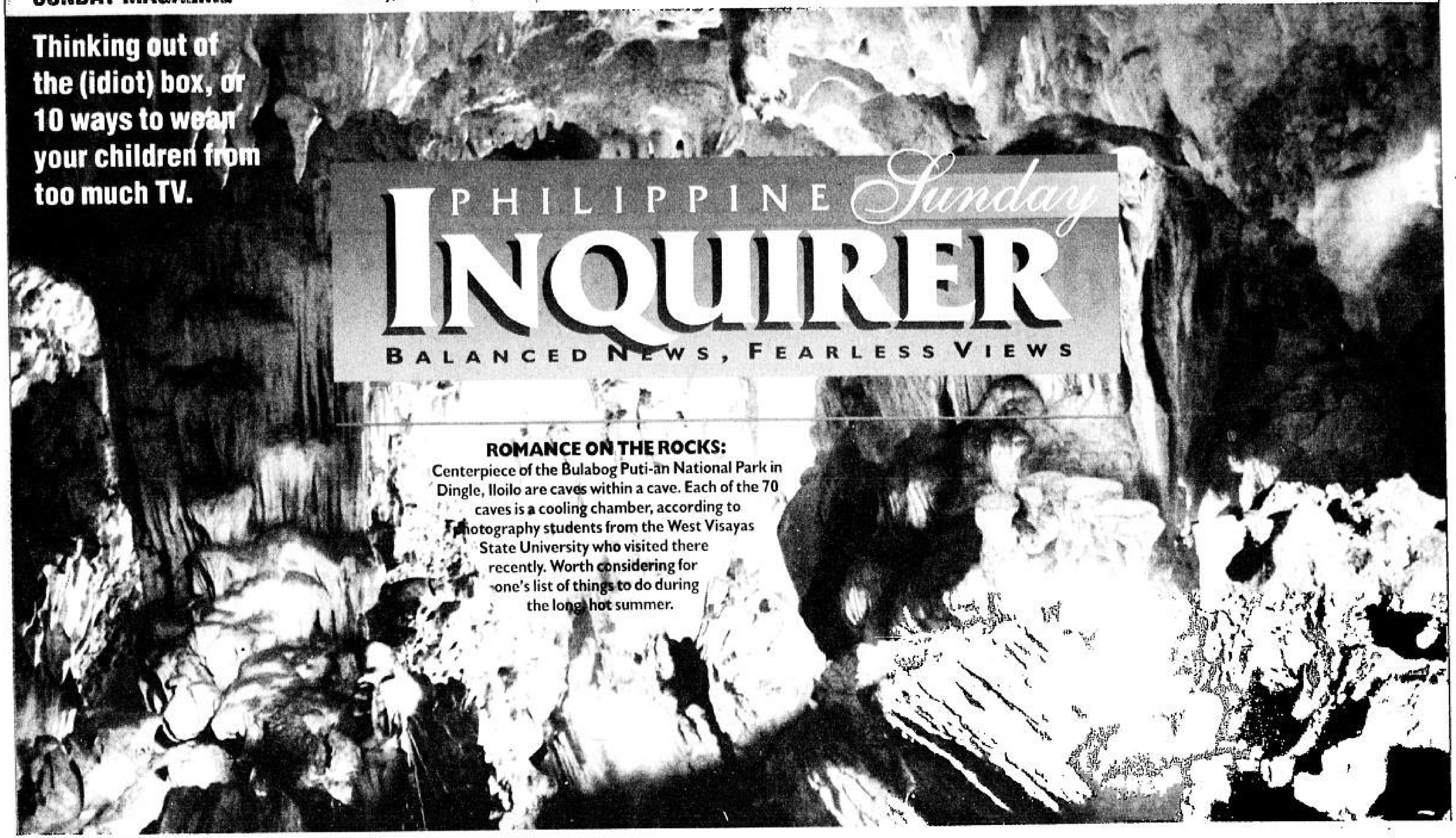
SUNDAY MAGAZINE Sunday, March 25, 2007 ★★ 15 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 107 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Thinking out of the (idiot) box, or 10 ways to wean your children from too much TV.

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



ROMANCE ON THE ROCKS: Centerpiece of the Bulabog Puti-an National Park in Dingle, Iloilo are caves within a cave. Each of the 70 caves is a cooling chamber, according to photography students from the West Visayas State University who visited there recently. Worth considering for one's list of things to do during the long, hot summer.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

It's ₱1-B war on hunger

Jolted by survey, GMA orders funds for feeding projects

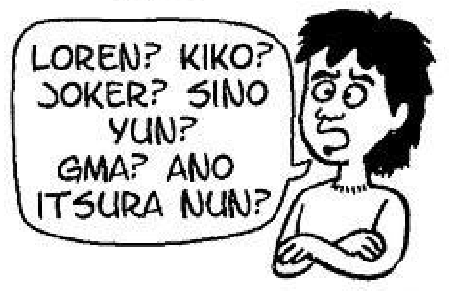
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CONFRONTED BY THE SPECTER OF A LARGE NUMBER OF FILIPINOS going hungry, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the release of a billion pesos for "emergency hunger mitigation" in depressed areas of Metro Manila and in some provinces found to have a high incidence of hunger.

The President ordered the release of the funds for the government's food-for-school and food-for-work programs and for various feeding programs of the religious and nongovernment organizations after she convened the National Nutrition Council in Malacañang last Friday.

The emergency program will benefit areas iden-

P1-B WAR/ A8


LOREN? KIKO?
JOKER? SINO
YUN?
GMA? ANO
ITSURA NUN?

Loren, Kiko, Ping don't ring a bell for Batak folk

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—OPPOSITION STALwarts Loren Legarda, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson and Francis Joseph Escudero may have topped recent poll surveys.

But their names do not ring a bell at all among indigenous communities like the Batak,

LOREN/ A22

Love blooms in sludge of Guimaras

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

NUEVA VALENCIA, GUIMARAS—Love and hope blossomed in the time of tragedy on Guimaras Island.

Two residents of Barangay Tando, which was among the worst hit by last year's oil spill, met and fell in love while cleaning up the contaminated coastline. They got married early this year.

Like other residents of Tando, Jessie Castidad and Vicky Gandesila woke up on Aug. 12, 2006, to the stench of bunker fuel and the horror of thick sludge on their shores and doorsteps.

They learned that the tanker Solar I sank 13 miles southwest of Guimaras a day earlier, and that it was transporting 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel from the Petron Corp. depot in Bataan to Zamboanga.

At least 300,000 liters of bunker fuel could have been spilled.

Considered the worst in Philippine history, the oil spill contaminated Guimaras' pristine beaches and rich marine resources. It also devastated the residents, who were mostly dependent on the sea for their livelihood.

With fish catch dwindling to almost nothing, hundreds of residents volunteered for the cleanup operations orga-

LOVE/ A6

Afghan women learn from Filipinas

RYAN LIM

LEARNING FROM THEIR RP SISTERS, a sidetrip to 168 in Divisoria is in order for Afghanistan's official Zohra Rasekh (left) and a colleague.

By Tarra Quismundo

THE WOMEN WALKED WITHOUT FEAR ON high-heeled shoes in a crowded bargain mall in Manila, bravely haggling for souvenirs, aware that they did not have to speak in whispers in this part of the world.

All government officials of Afghanistan, they were relishing a side trip to the shopping haven of Divisoria—a seeming universe away from that dark time in their native land when women were beaten just for speaking or wearing high heels in public.

Eager to learn from the long struggle of women in this country, these deputy ministers and their male colleagues in Afghanistan's Interministerial Commission on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (IMC-EVAW) flew

AFGHAN/ A21

Easy Rider: Super Lolo drives 900 km on bike

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon

SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA—HE WAS definitely "born to be wild."

So when biker *Lolo* Benjamin Manas turned 80 years old on March 20, he decided to mark this milestone by going on a 900-kilometer road trip on his favorite bike—a four-stroke Yamaha Nouvo motorcycle.

All by himself.

On Tuesday, right after his birthday lunch, Manas bid his lovely 30-year-old wife goodbye, left his house in Barangay Nueva here and headed for Tacloban City, Leyte.

After two-and-a-half days of traveling over very bad roads and having three flat tires, he finally arrived at his destination on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and celebrated his feat with biker friends.

They all came from different parts of the country to attend the annual convention of the Federation of Motorcycle Clubs of the Philippines (FM-

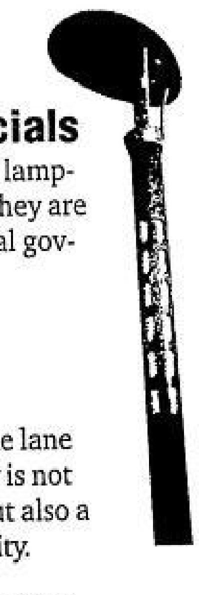
EASY/ A6

MARLON RAMOS/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

HARD TO BEAT: On the road, Benjamin Manas, 80, wears road-worthy clothes.

WORLD/ A28

Iran seizes 15 British sailors and marines at waterway separating Iran and Iraq; triggers another diplomatic crisis.



ACROSS/ A17

Cebu local officials on massive overprice of lampposts point to DPWH: They are blaming us for a national government project.

METRO/ A25

Marikina City: With its 52-km long bike lane network, Marikina City is not only the shoe capital but also a showcase of a bicycle city.

ENTERTAINMENT / L2

Richard Gere, the iconic 'gigolo' discusses the Dalai Lama, condoms and how he has divided his life into thirds: Career, volunteer work and family.

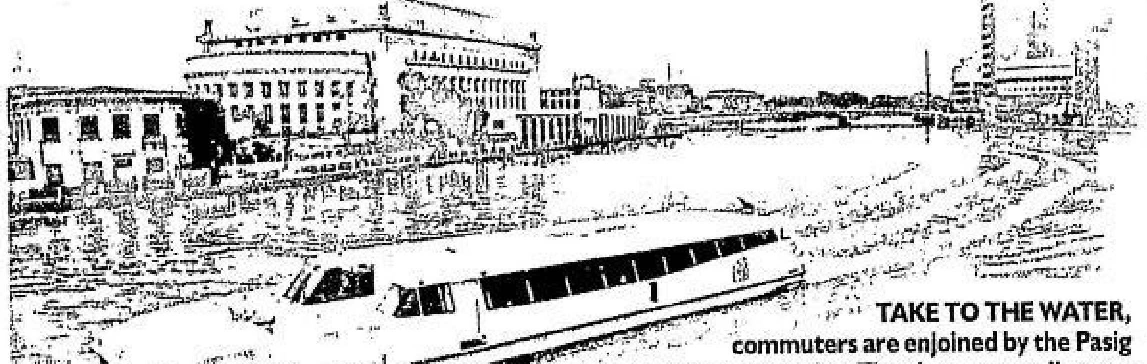
SUNDAY BIZ / B1

Drug exec a whiz on molecular biochemistry can dance up a Saturday Night Fever as in John Travolta.

LIFESTYLE/ C2

SUNSET HOTEL: Relaunch of the Philippine Plaza as part of Sofitel's luxury resort-style global network showcases RP's splendid world famous sunset.

An invitation: Come on board the Pasig ferry



REM ZAMORA

TAKE TO THE WATER, commuters are enjoined by the Pasig River Ferry Service. They have yet to discover the pleasures of a traffic-free boat ride. Only P25 per person for the Escolta-Guadalupe route. Plans are underway for a Manila-Marikina route.

By Volt Contreras

IT OFFERS A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF MALACAÑANG, THE seat of the Philippine government that most citizens see only as a drawing on a P20 bill.

Consider that a come-on of the recently revived Pasig River Ferry Service (PRFS), which is taking up from where the two short-lived ferry projects in the 1980s and 1990s left off.

But there has to be more to it, especially because the service that opened last month has yet to draw crowds as dense as the rush-hour masses relying on Metro Manila's land transport systems. In a city that seems to have forgotten the romance of a boat ride, more than a marketing splash on the part of PRFS proponents may

AN INVITATION/ A8

EZ2 | SIX DIGIT
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(All in exact order)

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN
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Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/24/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Saving education business' priority

By Daxim L. Lucas

AN EDUCATION ADVOCACY GROUP COMPOSED OF business leaders said companies should pool their donations in a unified program as this was a more effective means of helping solve the country's education crisis.

Speaking in various business forums this week, Philippine Business for Education (PBEd) officers encouraged corporations to align their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs with the PBEd's own goal of improving the quality of education in the public school system.

"Business has given P2.7 billion to public education over the last two years and yet the quality of education continues to decline," said PBEd executive director Chito B. Salazar at a briefing he gave for corporate leaders on Wednesday in Makati.

He said the effects of the education crisis will only be felt in six to 10 years, when the present crop of elementary school students graduate with poor communication, math and science skills.

"By then, we will have students graduating from Grade 6 without reading skills," Salazar said.

The PBEd, which brings together business organizations, business-based advocacy groups, corporations and industrialists, is the business community's response to the need for consensus and sustained advocacy in education reform.

The PBEd this week unveiled a three-pronged solution which it says goes to the root of the education problem.

The first component, called "57-75," is aimed at raising the average national grade in the public school system from the present 57 percent to at least 75 percent.

"Even this 57 percent is just for the grade school level," Salazar said. He said it was even worse in high school where the national average was only 44 percent.

Under the scheme, the PBEd will "retrofit" the education charity programs of various corporations to comply with its 57-75 program. Resources would then be released to beneficiary schools chosen by corporate donors in tranches, with subsequent releases depending on the performance of the school and its students.

"That way, we can demand better performance from these schools," Salazar said.

He said this was a much better method than the traditional dole programs.

"They have to perform to avail of more aid," he said.

The PBEd also unveiled parallel programs aimed at encouraging more high school students to take up education in college and eventually become teachers, by giving out more company sponsored scholarships for education courses.

Another program which will help teachers improve their English proficiency and instruction skills.

"The key to this whole thing is to keep improving the English proficiency of the teachers because they are the ones who teach the students," said PBEd founding director Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

'High birth rate = classroom lack'

By Michael Lim Ubac

AS LONG AS POPULATION GROWTH is not reined in, government will never be able to wipe out classroom backlogs, according to Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

At the roundtable discussion with President Macapagal-Arroyo on the issues of hunger and poverty on Thursday, the education chief pointed to the relevance of population management in solving the perennial classroom shortage.

"Every minute, four babies are born. In my limited point of view on this classroom shortage, it's like every 10 minutes, I'm short one classroom," said Lapus.

The projected population growth for 2007 is 8.7 million based on an annual growth rate of 2 percent. This places the current Philippine population at 88.7 million.

President Arroyo, however, has frowned on proposals to intensify birth control measures in the face of stiff opposition from the Catholic Church.

She then shifted the discussion to her administration's increased budget for education.

She said the government had money to build 14,000 classrooms this year.

She also talked about "ladderized education" in which high school students are encouraged to take up vocational courses instead of going on to college.

"We all know that even if a child is not that bright, among the great Filipino dream(s) of parents is (for their children) to have a college education," she said.

The President said blue-collar jobs like welding and butchering animals were not only in-demand but were also high-paying jobs abroad.

"We really need more technical people than management people. College is usually for management people," Ms Arroyo said.

Lapus stressed that as the National Career Assessment Examination taken last month showed, more than half of the 1.3 million senior high school students in both the public and private schools did not qualify for a college education.

"There's really a mismatch," said Lapus, because most Filipinos want a college diploma.

"So we have 1.1 million college graduates who are jobless, but we have 650,000 jobs unfilled."

THE LATE Augusto "Bobbit" S. Sanchez Sr. was recently posthumously conferred the Ka Pepe Diokno Award of Recognition by the De La Salle Professional Schools. The award was received by his widow, Lolita Panton Sanchez (5th from left) shown here with (from left) Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga, La Salle Dean Philip Ella Juico, Retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, Carmen I. Diokno, the late senator's widow, Sen. Joker Arroyo, Jose Manuel I. Diokno, Br. Bernie Oca FSC, and DLSPS chair Ramon R. del Rosario Jr.

Ka Pepe award conferred on late human rights lawyer

THE NAME WILL PROBABLY NOT RING A bell with today's generation, but for those who knew him, the late Augusto "Bobbit" Sanchez Sr. was the human rights lawyer and activist who was at the forefront in the fight against the Marcos dictatorship.

Sanchez, who died in 2003, was recently posthumously conferred by the De La Salle Professional Schools Inc. (DLSPS) the Ka Pepe Diokno Award of Recognition for his "fierce and tireless dedication to the cause of human rights and for having fulfilled his lifelong mission to defend the poor, the exploited and the oppressed."

He was cited for "unstintingly [devoting] himself to defending the rights of the oppressed through the skillful wielding of his pen and through more than three decades of untiring and fearless performance of his duties as a public servant."

The Ka Pepe Diokno Award is given to exemplary men and women who stood as champions of human rights. Previous awardees were the late Judge Voltaire Rosales in 2005 and the late Sr. Mariani Dimaranan SFIC in 2006.

Sanchez was a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention and an assemblyman in the Marcos-era Batasang Pambansa. Though he was counsel to some of the country's biggest business firms, Sanchez cofounded the Mabini group of lawyers which offered pro bono services to rights abuse victims during the Marcos dictatorship. After the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, he was appointed labor secretary in the Cory Aquino administration but had to be let go because of the right-wing clamor for Aquino to get rid of "left-leaning" members of her Cabinet.

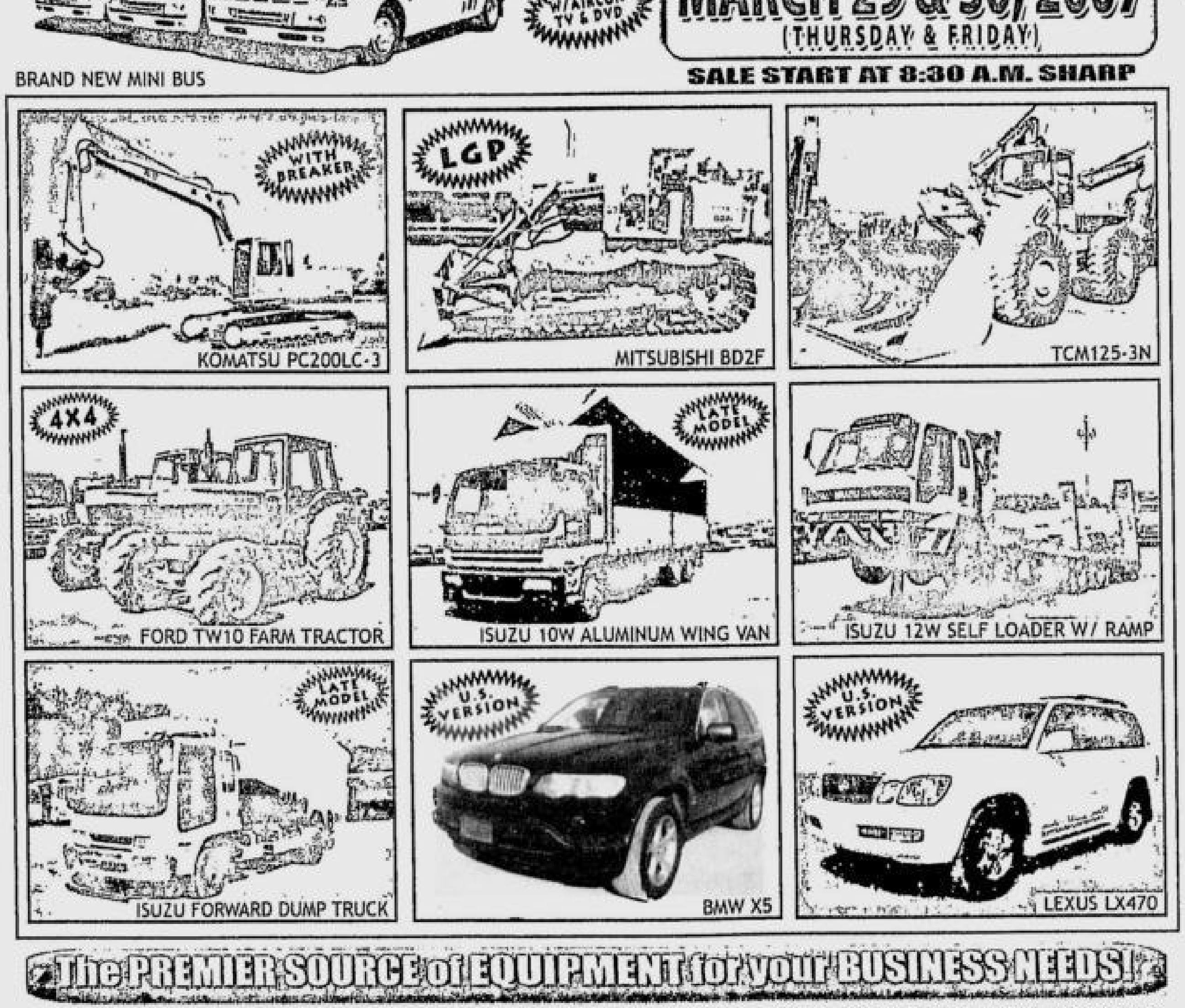
DLSPS board chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. presented the medal of honor to Lolita Panton Sanchez, Sanchez's widow, while Br. Bernie Oca, FSC, president of De La Salle Professional Schools, presented the plaque of citation.

The "remarks of circumstance" were given by Philip Ella Juico, dean of the De La Salle Professional Schools Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Graduate School of Business.

Bobbit's son, Bishop Augusto "Chito" Sanchez Jr., of The River of God Church and its affiliates, gave a moving account of how his father never failed to inspire him and his siblings in their growing-up years and, especially for him, at this time in his life and in his chosen vocation.

Some of those who came to honor Sanchez—former Senate President Jovito Salonga, retired Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo and his wife Bobbie Malay, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, writer F. Sionil Jose, Nini Quezon-Avanceña and Sen. Joker Arroyo—were his fellow freedom fighters in the anti-Marcos movement.

The gathering was actually a twin event, the posthumous award for Sanchez and the launch of the book "Diokno on Trial: Techniques and Ideals of the Filipino Lawyer." The book is a complete guide on how to handle court cases from no less than Ka Pepe himself. It was compiled and edited by his son, lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno.



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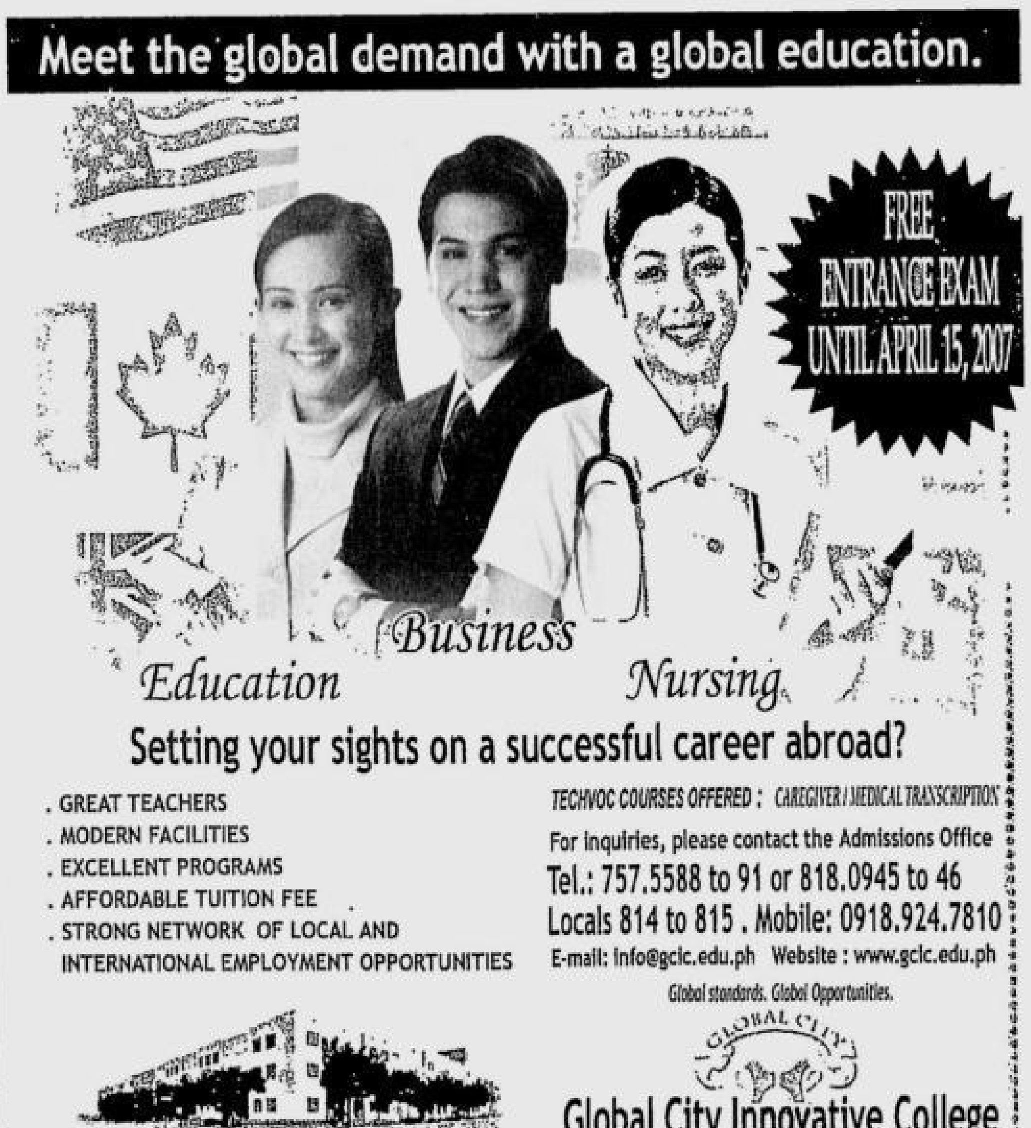

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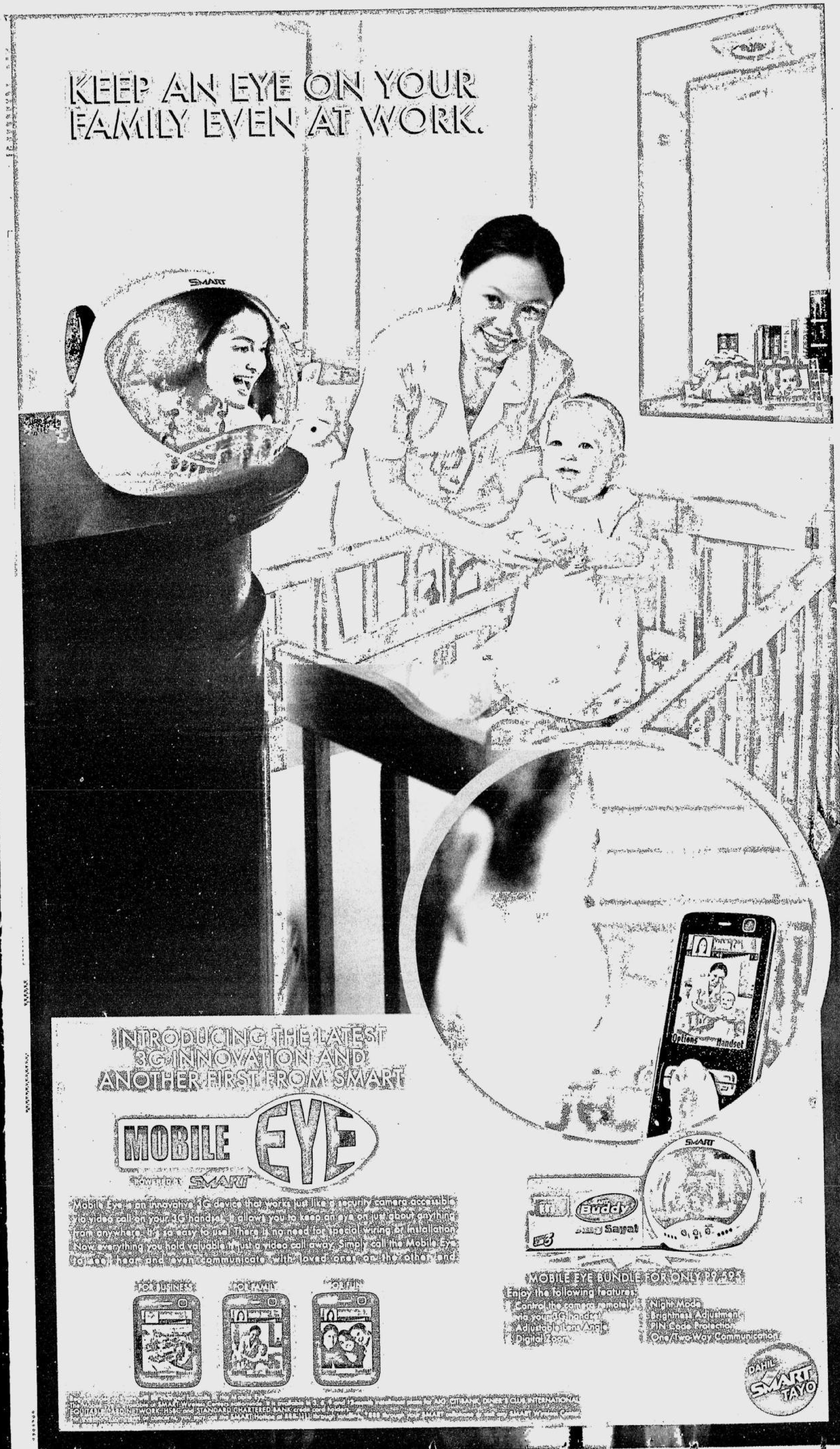

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Palace welcomes US exec's visit

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID it welcomed the plan of a senior US state department official to visit the country next month to look into charges that security forces were behind the spate of extrajudicial killings in the country.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Eric John is arriving in April to look into what human rights groups say is a systematic operation to exterminate leftist leaders by some members of the military. The group Karapatan has listed over 800 political killings since President Arroyo came to power five years ago.

"We welcome the visit of a high official from the US state department to take an extensive and objective look at this issue, and we take it as an opportunity to get the facts straight for the benefit of the American people, especially Fil-Ams in the United States," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Ally in democracy

"We are an ally of the United States in democracy and the protection of human rights and we intend, as we have done in the case of all well-meaning international institutions, to be transparent and candid in these matters, whether they pertain to violations by the revolutionary left or a few misguided soldiers. The US state department can expect all the assistance it needs for a balanced and fair assessment of this matter," Bunye said.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is also reportedly sending a three-member fact-finding team to the country in April.

John earlier testified at an investigation by the US Senate foreign relations subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs of the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. He praised Ms Arroyo for making efforts to stop the extrajudicial killings but added that she had "not done enough to deal with the security forces around her."

Responsible for actions

John also said that as the ultimate authority in the chain of command, Ms Arroyo was responsible for the actions of the military and the rise in the killings.

The US Senate investigation is just one of several international probes being conducted on the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo earlier formed her own fact-finding body chaired by retired Justice Jose R. Melo to probe the killings. The commission implicated some members of the military but no one has been held accountable as of now.

United National Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, who was in the country last month, said the military was linked to most of the killings and was "in almost total denial" over the deaths.

The Philippine military has denied it is behind the killings and charged the communist insurgents with killing their own people as part of an internal purge.

Cops ban rallies for Satur near HQ

CITING COMPLAINTS FROM business establishments and motorists, the Manila Police District yesterday said that demonstrations in front of its headquarters on United Nations Avenue would no longer be allowed.

Police officials said demonstrators would be barred within a 500-meter radius from the MPD headquarters, where Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo is being held in connection with the alleged 1986 mass murder of suspected military spies in Leyte.

Protesters may instead gather at the nearby Plaza Rueda at the corner of UN and Taft Avenues, or at Plaza Salamanca on Kalaw Street, the police said.

One policeman, who refused to be named because he was not authorized to give information to the media, said they had received complaints from the Medical Center Manila, which is located across from MPD headquarters about the "noise" from Ocampo's supporters since the militant lawmaker's arrest on March 16.

Sought for comment, Ocampo said the barring of protest actions "is a violation of the militant groups' right to peaceably assemble."

"Police should not stop them from holding rallies," he added.

A steady stream of visitors and the media has prompted the MPD to transfer Ocampo to a larger detention area. Ocampo was moved yesterday to the Rizal Hall conference room on the second floor of the MPD from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit office. *Tina G. Santos*

Magdalo can't alter plea, says lawyer

LAWYER THEODORO TE YESTERDAY asked a Makati court to deny the motion of 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan to change his plea from "not guilty" to "guilty" for the lesser offense of conspiracy in connection with the Oakwook mutiny in 2003.

Te, who represents other junior officers charged with involvement in the day-long takeover by some 300 soldiers of the Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati, argued that there was no basis to approve San Juan's plea because a conspiracy for a coup d'etat could not exist if only one person claimed responsibility.

San Juan is reportedly entering into a plea bargain with the government in exchange for a lesser penalty and his release on bail. He joins at least seven other rebel officers that have renounced their ties to the Magdalo group of military mutineers which had denounced corruption in the Armed Forces and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Te, of the Free Legal Assistance Group, represents Air Force Capt. Segundino Orfiano and First Lieutenants Francisco Ashley Acedillo and Billy Pascua in the coup d'etat case against 31 junior officers.

Te told Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court that allowing San Juan to change his plea would "tar the other accused with the same brush." *Julie M. Aurelio*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE article—"Why Arroyo wife sought protection"—misstated that Alicia Arroyo was the first woman chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange. She was the third. The first woman chair was Trinidad Kalaw followed by Vivian Yuchengco.

IN THE SAME issue, a story on Page A15—"Contractor abandons Guinsaugon project, Gordon seeks charges"—misstated the name of the Philippine National Red Cross secretary general. Her name is Corazon Alma—not Alma Corazon-de Leon.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Sunday 25 March 2007's is the EU's 50th birthday. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the treaty of Rome, more than 120 delegations of the Commission around the world will hold a series of events involving the general public, young people, academia, the media and civil society. The celebrations will mark the EU's ever closer cooperation with its partners and foster dialogue so that together we can better face challenges of our increasingly globalised world. Ultimately, this will also increase mutual understanding between people and cultures.

Citizens and governments in the EU's partner countries will also have the opportunity to consider what this milestone means for them, what the EU has done for their country and what the prospects are for the future.

Special happenings are planned throughout 2007, with a focus on March 2007 and the traditional Europe Day celebrations around 9 May. Events will include festivals, cinema, conferences and seminars, cultural events, exhibition, publication, concerts and contests.

The Treaties of Rome

The year 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome.

Thus, 25 March 1957 saw the birth of a European family. Building on the success of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg joined forces in order achieve integration via trade with a view to economic expansion. The first treaty signed during this historic day established the European Economic Community (EEC) or "common market." The idea was for people, goods and services to move freely across borders.

A treaty signed during the same day created the European Atomic Energy Community, better known as Euratom. Both treaties were in conjunction with the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

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March 2007

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Palace welcomes US exec's visit

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID it welcomed the plan of a senior US state department official to visit the country next month to look into charges that security forces were behind the spate of extrajudicial killings in the country.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Eric John is arriving in April to look into what human rights groups say is a systematic operation to exterminate leftist leaders by some members of the military. The group Karapatan has listed over 800 political killings since President Arroyo came to power five years ago.

"We welcome the visit of a high official from the US state department to take an extensive and objective look at this issue, and we take it as an opportunity to get the facts straight for the benefit of the American people, especially Fil-Ams in the United States," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Ally in democracy

"We are an ally of the United States in democracy and the protection of human rights and we intend, as we have done in the case of all well-meaning international institutions, to be transparent and candid in these matters, whether they pertain to violations by the revolutionary left or a few misguided soldiers. The US state department can expect all the assistance it needs for a balanced and fair assessment of this matter," Bunye said.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is also reportedly sending a three-member fact-finding team to the country in April.

John earlier testified at an investigation by the US Senate foreign relations subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs of the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. He praised Ms Arroyo for making efforts to stop the extrajudicial killings but added that she had "not done enough to deal with the security forces around her."

Responsible for actions

John also said that as the ultimate authority in the chain of command, Ms Arroyo was responsible for the actions of the military and the rise in the killings.

The US Senate investigation is just one of several international probes being conducted on the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

Ms Arroyo earlier formed her own fact-finding body chaired by retired Justice Jose R. Melo to probe the killings. The commission implicated some members of the military but no one has been held accountable as of now.

United National Special Rapporteur Philip Alston, who was in the country last month, said the military was linked to most of the killings and was "in almost total denial" over the deaths.

The Philippine military has denied it is behind the killings and charged the communist insurgents with killing their own people as part of an internal purge.

Cops ban rallies for Satur near HQ

CITING COMPLAINTS FROM business establishments and motorists, the Manila Police District yesterday said that demonstrations in front of its headquarters on United Nations Avenue would no longer be allowed.

Police officials said demonstrators would be barred within a 500-meter radius from the MPD headquarters, where Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo is being held in connection with the alleged 1986 mass murder of suspected military spies in Leyte.

Protesters may instead gather at the nearby Plaza Rueda at the corner of UN and Taft Avenues, or at Plaza Salamanca on Kalaw Street, the police said.

One policeman, who refused to be named because he was not authorized to give information to the media, said they had received complaints from the Medical Center Manila, which is located across from MPD headquarters about the "noise" from Ocampo's supporters since the militant lawmaker's arrest on March 16.

Sought for comment, Ocampo said the barring of protest actions "is a violation of the militant groups' right to peaceably assemble."

"Police should not stop them from holding rallies," he added.

A steady stream of visitors and the media has prompted the MPD to transfer Ocampo to a larger detention area. Ocampo was moved yesterday to the Rizal Hall conference room on the second floor of the MPD from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit office. *Tina G. Santos*

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Hosted by: The FEU - NRMF Administration, Faculty and Staff

Please contact the Dean's Office; 938-4851 / 427-0213 local 1211
look for Josie or the Alumni Office; 427-0213 local 3000 look for Cely

Magdalo can't alter plea, says lawyer

LAWYER THEODORO TE YESTERDAY asked a Makati court to deny the motion of 1Lt. Lawrence San Juan to change his plea from "not guilty" to "guilty" for the lesser offense of conspiracy in connection with the Oakwook mutiny in 2003.

Te, who represents other junior officers charged with involvement in the day-long takeover by some 300 soldiers of the Oakwood apartment hotel in Makati, argued that there was no basis to approve San Juan's plea because a conspiracy for a coup d'etat could not exist if only one person claimed responsibility.

San Juan is reportedly entering into a plea bargain with the government in exchange for a lesser penalty and his release on bail. He joins at least seven other rebel officers that have renounced their ties to the Magdalo group of military mutineers which had denounced corruption in the Armed Forces and called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

Te, of the Free Legal Assistance Group, represents Air Force Capt. Segundino Orfiano and First Lieutenants Francisco Ashley Acedillo and Billy Pascua in the coup d'etat case against 31 junior officers.

Te told Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court that allowing San Juan to change his plea would "tar the other accused with the same brush." *Julie M. Aurelio*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, A FRONT-PAGE article—"Why Arroyo wife sought protection"—misstated that Alicia Arroyo was the first woman chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange. She was the third. The first woman chair was Trinidad Kalaw followed by Vivian Yuchengco.

IN THE SAME issue, a story on Page A15—"Contractor abandons Guinsaugon project, Gordon seeks charges"—misstated the name of the Philippine National Red Cross secretary general. Her name is Corazon Alma—not Alma Corazon-de Leon.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

Celebrating Europe!
50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

EUROPEAN UNION

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Sunday 25 March 2007's is the EU's 50th birthday. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the treaty of Rome, more than 120 delegations of the Commission around the world will hold a series of events involving the general public, young people, academia, the media and civil society. The celebrations will mark the EU's ever closer cooperation with its partners and foster dialogue so that together we can better face challenges of our increasingly globalised world. Ultimately, this will also increase mutual understanding between people and cultures.

Citizens and governments in the EU's partner countries will also have the opportunity to consider what this milestone means for them, what the EU has done for their country and what the prospects are for the future.

Special happenings are planned throughout 2007, with a focus on March 2007 and the traditional Europe Day celebrations around 9 May. Events will include festivals, cinema, conferences and seminars, cultural events, exhibition, publication, concerts and contests.

The Treaties of Rome

The year 2007 marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome.

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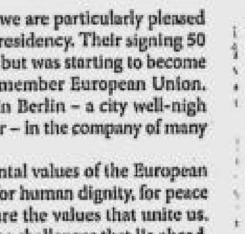

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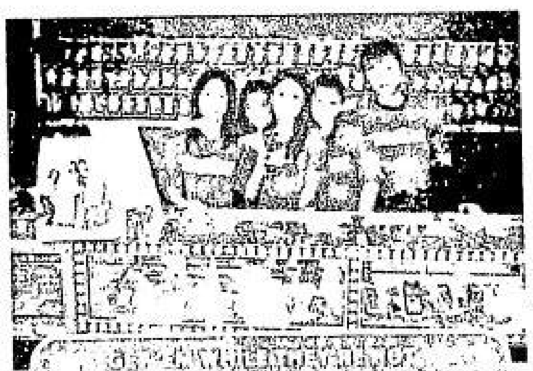

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Isang malaking selebrasyon ang inihandog ng Globe Telecom at Maxis Communications sa mga kababayan nating nasa Kota Kinabalu para sa launching ng pinakabago at natatanging Pinoy SIM sa Malaysia ang ***HOTLINK-KABABAYAN SIM.***

Dinala ng Globe Telecom at Maxis Communications mula sa Pilipinas ang mga naglalakihang Pinoy celebrities para mabigyang saya ang ating mga kababayan sa isang free Kababayan Fiesta Concert. At tulad ng inaasahan, enjoy na enjoy ang halos sampung libong manonood sa pagdating nina Francis Magalona, Andrew E., Aubrey Miles, True Faith at comedian host na si Pretty Trizsa.

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Easy Rider: Super lolo drives 900 km

From page A1

CP) in Tacloban City. But it was only Manas who had traveled alone.

"I wanted to prove to them that I can still travel on a bike by myself," Manas told the INQUIRER.

Last night, FMCP, which has 56 member clubs nationwide, gave Manas the "Oldest Active Biker in the Philippines" award.

Feeling macho

With his sporty biker gear and blue helmet, one would think Manas was a thirtysomething biker dude.

"Honestly, I really feel macho whenever I ride a bike," he said.

Was the grueling 900-km, 19-hour road trip a daunting challenge for this retired lawyer and World War II veteran?

"This is just ordinary for me. I've done this at least seven times in my life," he said.

Biker's high

Born on March 20, 1927, Manas said he wanted the younger generation of Filipinos to appreciate motorcycles as a convenient and practical mode of transport at a time of monstrous traffic jams and sky-rocketing oil prices.

He observed that motorcycles became popular among Filipinos only recently.

Aside from the economic advantages, riding a motorcycle gives him a distinctive kind of high.

"Riding a bike gives me freedom. I can't explain it. I feel free as a bird," Manas said.

"I don't really want to sound poetic but when you're on a bike traveling in the countryside, surrounded by lush greens and blue sky, it's breathtaking. It's a very different feeling compared to riding in a car where all you see is what encloses you," he said.

Road warrior

For his Laguna to Leyte trip, Manas donned protective plastic body gear that covered his chest, arms and legs. He also wore a blue helmet.

His motorcycle had a small ice box where he kept his water bottles. He brought along a small sports bag which contained a sleeping bag, two pairs of pants, two T-shirts, underwear and four apples.

From Laguna, Manas rode to Lucena City, Atimonan and Calauag which are all in Quezon province. He spent Tuesday night in Sipocot, Camarines Norte.

The following day, he rode until he reached Matnog, Sorsogon. From the pier, he took a two-hour ferry ride to Allen, Samar, where he was met by four other bikers who were worried about him.

Manas' target date to reach Tacloban City was Wednesday before noon and here he was still in Samar, where he and his friends decided to spend the night.

On Thursday, he rode as fast as 130 kilometers per hour, and finally reached Tacloban City at 7:30 p.m.

The biker *lolo* said the arduous Luzon to Visayas trip was nothing compared to his previous trips.

Three years ago, he rode from Laguna to Ballesteros, Cagayan, and then headed straight for Saranggani province in Mindanao. The trip took 15 days on his four-stroke bike.

Again, he traveled by himself.

"It's easier [to ride long distances] when you're alone," he said.

'Two-wheel beauty'

Born to a middle-class family, Manas first fell in love with a "two-wheel beauty" when he was 16.

"Every day at 2 p.m. I would take my uncle's motorcycle while he was taking his siesta. I would ride several kilometers from our house and return before my uncle woke up," he said.

After World War II, he befriended John MacTee, an American soldier, who gifted him with a Harley-Davidson motorcycle which the US troops had used on patrol.

Manas said he spent P300 to repair the bike.

At the time, Filipinos called motorcycles *pagutput*, referring to the sound they made.

As a law student, Manas would ride his Harley from their house in San Pedro, Laguna, all the way to Manuel L. Quezon University in Manila—traveling 64 kilometers every day.

"Although the roads were bad then, it only took me 35 minutes from San Pedro to MLQU. *Hindi pa nga uso ang* helmet *noon* (Helmets were not required)," he recalled.

In 1956, he took the bar and passed.

When he was earning enough money, he bought a 750-cc Birago touring bike. He also owned a 500-cc BMW R50.

Later, he sold all his motorcycles and acquired a 500-cc Birago.

He said at one time, he had three big bikes which he rode to court hearings.

"Wearing my barong Tagalog, I was the only the lawyer who rode a bike when going to the courts," he said.

Car or bike?

Manas said he also had cars—an Aston Martin and a Mustang—but this never affected his fondness for motorcycles.

Among his bikes, his favorite was his 1,000-cc BMW. He said it was very expensive and was considered "the Rolls Royce of motorcycles."

He said his bike travels taught him to appreciate the nature and culture of Filipinos.

During his long-distance trips, he said he never checked into hotels. He slept in covered basketball courts which were common in the provinces.

At meal time, he would park his bike near a house "with a garden and a motorcycle in the garage."

"Residents who owned motorcycles usually offered free meals for bikers like me," he said. "I also found out that Bicolanos are the most caring of all Filipinos."

Close calls

He has had a number of near-death experiences.

In 2004, he broke his right shoulder blade after he was thrown off his motorcycle while trying to avoid a pedestrian in Naga City during the Feast of Peñafrancia.

A week after a steel brace was inserted to support his broken shoulder, he was hit by a vehicle at an intersection in Muntinlupa, this time breaking his left shoulder.

"Although the roads are much better now, it was safer being a biker 30 years ago. Drivers treated us with respect. Now, they just hit motorcycles and take off," Manas lamented.

"I also feel sad whenever I hear criminals use bikes for their [nefarious activities]," he said.

Through the years, his love for motorcycles never wavered.

Advocacy

Eventually, it became an advocacy.

In 1993, while riding his 1,000-cc BMW, Manas was stopped from entering the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

Irked, he filed a civil case against the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and actively campaigned for the removal of the restrictions on big bikes.

He ultimately won the case, prompting the PNCC to allow motorcycles with engines of 400-cc and above to use the SLEX.

Manas also saw the need to unite bikers, not just in Southern Tagalog, but in the whole country.

He initiated the formation of FMCP which has 56 member clubs nationwide. He also founded the South Luzon Motorcyclists Association Inc. where he serves as president.

Gone fishing

Manas gives lectures on the Land Transportation Code. He is also finishing a manual on defensive driving and road discipline and courtesy which will be published before the year ends.

He also involves himself in community service and transportation assistance, especially during the holidays when motorists flock to the provinces.

On weekends, he drives 121 kilometers south—on a motorcycle, of course—to San Juan, Batangas where he goes fishing.

Manas said he could not imagine himself putting away his helmet and parking his motorcycle for good.

"I think I still have five good years. Riding my bike is incredible. It still amazes me," he said.

MOUNTING his four-stroke Yamaha Nouvo motorcyle, Benjamin Manas makes it—in 2 days and a half—from his house in Barangay Nueva, San Pedro Laguna to Tacloban, Leyte. MARLON RAMOS/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Love blooms in time of oil spill in Guimaras

From page A1

nized by Petron. They were initially paid P250 a day, and then starting in September P300.

First meeting

Jessie, 28, and Vicky, 22, were among the volunteers.

A fisherman since he was 10, Jessie started working at the cleanup sites starting on Aug. 15 until the operation was completed late last year.

Vicky, a shell gatherer since she was 14, joined the cleanup only in September.

Though both residents of Tando, Jessie and Vicky never had a chance to get acquainted. They were introduced to each other shortly after she started work at the cleanup.

Their first meeting was at the house of a fellow worker, where the members of the cleanup teams usually spent time relaxing after work.

"We were introduced but I did not give him a second thought," Vicky recalled.

The informal gatherings were the only times Jessie and Vicky were together because they were assigned to separate cleanup sites.

But they eventually became friends—and the subject of teasing.

Something more

Vicky initially dismissed the teasing, but later admitted to herself that her blushing and Jessie's meaningful glances were leading to something more than friendship.

"I was surprised that I started entertaining the possibility that we could be a couple. He was the silent type who did not talk a lot, much less show or express emotion," she said.

Jessie, who had never had a girlfriend before, said he was at first hesitant to tell Vicky about his feelings.

But he later realized that he had to do something because he was old enough to get married.

On Oct. 6, on Vicky's 22nd birthday, Jessie mustered the courage to declare his love. Five days later, the two officially became a couple.

"It was exciting but I was also afraid because although I had a boyfriend years ago, this one was serious," Vicky said.

She said she was drawn to Jessie's good-natured ways and his calming silence.

"People look at him as a responsible person, so it was not really difficult to fall in love with him," she said.

Jessie said he was attracted to Vicky's bubbly and girlish charm. He said he liked the way she laughed and how she made him happy when they were together.

Hopeful

Vicky and Jessie were married at the Tando chapel on Jan. 27. They are now staying with Jessie's family.

Despite the tragedy, they are hopeful that things would get better.

"We have lived because of the sea and we will continue to do so," said Jessie, who was forced to quit school when he was in the second grade because of poverty.

Vicky herself only managed to reach the sixth grade.

He has returned to fishing, and she to shell gathering.

Like the other Tando residents, they welcome the help that has been given their community.

Tando is home to a P5-million mangrove nursery of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources funded by Mirant Philippines.

It is also a recipient of a livelihood and rehabilitation project from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, which aims to help residents cope with the long-term effects of the oil spill.

The project involved the donation of four motorized boats, fishnets and other gear to four clusters of fishermen.

The fishermen divide the income from their catch among themselves.

Jessie and Vicky joined the residents who attended the groundbreaking ceremony held earlier this month for a new four-room elementary school building donated by Petron.

Groundbreaking rite

The building will replace the dilapidated classrooms being used by around 100 schoolchildren.

The residents take comfort in the fact that the $6-million operation to remove the remaining oil inside the wreck of the Solar I finally started on March 11. The operation is expected to take from 20 days to around a month.

But other residents, church groups and officials of Nueva Valencia are protesting the stopping of the cleanup operations.

They say oil sludge is still present in some areas and can be found a few inches below the sand. They are demanding that Petron continue the cleanup.

Nueva Valencia Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga said, however, that the residents could now "focus on our rehabilitation efforts and programs."

For Jessie and Vicky, this means that they can move on as a couple, secure in the belief that something good can emerge from even the worst experience.

"If not for the oil spill I would not have met and found my wife," Jessie said. "We both want to have children soon."

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An invitation: Come on board the Pasig ferry

From page A1

be required for commuters to take to the water after decades on wheels.

First-time riders, however, may find the experience worth more than the current flat rate of P25 per passenger.

More than just a cheap and comfortable ride, it's about giving the country's oldest, historic highway another chance.

It also appeals to the practical. With initially two catamarans plying the route, a one-way trip down the first five stations now in operation—Guadalupe (Makati City), Hulo (Mandaluyong), Lambingan, Sta. Ana and Escolta (all in Manila)—takes about 55 minutes.

Even a taxi driver wise to the ways of the daily street traffic may find that hard to beat.

THE SCENIC SIDE: The ferry is a cool alternative to the heat-smog-choked streets of the city. But the view is mostly that of urban decay, except for pleasant patches along the cruise such as the Gawad Kalinga housing painted in the colors of the rainbow in Mandaluyong City. LUCKY BESA/CONTRIBUTOR

Thumbs up

Caloy Malagonio, who got on board at the Guadalupe station for a business appointment on Roxas Boulevard at around 1 p.m. last Friday, found the ferry "ideal for those who allot a regular time for their trips."

The Escolta stop, for example, can be a convenient alternative for those carrying big hand-carried bundles going to or from the Divisoria market district in Manila, he said.

Another male passenger who frequently goes to Quiapo Church said the ferry had relieved him of the round-trip routine of taking two rail lines—the MRT and LRT1—and saved him extra pesos.

He can now also avoid the *siksikan* (overcrowding) and the tiring flights of stairs at the train stations, he said, flashing the thumbs-up sign as he disembarked.

"You can take a nap here," added Zenaida Suarez, a housewife with a shopping bag who also got on at Guadalupe.

The MV Pasig River I and II, the twin-hulled vessels currently in use, can each carry up to 150 passengers on air-conditioned, glass-enclosed decks.

Life vests are visible under the seats, lavatories are found at the rear, and open-air viewing sections are open to passengers at both ends of the boat.

Bill

Hollywood films on video are shown on a flat screen TV up front, with loud speakers extending to the open-air platforms.

But if the TV menu continues to offer only two-hour movies, obviously no one, save for the crew, can watch anything from beginning to end on a one-way trip.

The incongruent programming easily drew a suggestion from passenger "Bill," who introduced himself as an American citizen in retirement, a constant visitor to the country since the Marcos years, and a fan of Filipino singers like Freddie Aguilar and Rico J. Puno.

"Why don't they show shorter clips, like plugs on tourism or the ferry service itself?" wondered the affable expatriate who boarded at Escolta and said he was getting off at Guadalupe.

With a professional camera slung around his neck, Bill clicked away as he talked.

He said it was his sixth ferry ride down the Pasig since the service began, his favorite photo subject being the smaller river craft and the children swimming gleefully in the filthy water.

By the time the INQUIRER took leave of him, Bill had shared his two cents' worth of the May elections, "nepotism" in Philippine politics—and, yes, the sorry state of the river.

Snapshots

Indeed, through Bill's lens, and through the glass windows, darkly, came a visual assault of what has long been misused as Metro Manila's sinkhole.

Environment experts report that efforts to rehabilitate the Pasig have begun to pay off with the return of fish and improvements in salinity. But the view from the ferry tells of the magnitude of the work crying out to be done on slum colonies (including those hanging from under bridges), sooty factories and fuel depots, abandoned warehouses.

Pastel-colored houses and "mini-parks" occasionally break the dreary scene, but mostly one found oneself staring at somebody's clothesline or backdoor.

Manila Bay's shifting tides dictated the flow of trash floating among patches of water lily.

But other scenes hove into view in the course of the ride.

From the deck, the familiar urban contrasts could be seen from unfamiliar, sea-level angles: Makati's low-rise neighborhoods set against its own towering business district, Mandaluyong's mostly flat profile also starting to aspire for the sky.

Manila's old and new faces emerged from both sides of the boat at the Escolta station near the foot of the Jones Bridge—at the southern bank, the stately Post Office building of the prewar era, and from the northern bank, a maze of condominiums, modern office buildings and shops.

Yet undiscovered

On a regular trip, at least four boat personnel keep the craft going—the pilot, two deckhands, and a marine engineer. They all work for the Nautical Transport Service Inc., which was granted a five-year license by the Maritime Industrial Authority (Marina) to run the service.

Some NTSI employees conceded to the INQUIRER that the PRFS has yet to be "discovered" by most commuters. Neither of the two boats in current use has reached full seating capacity on a single trip since Day One of operations, they reported.

But among those who have discovered it, according to Guadalupe station manager Noel Mirallosa, are about a dozen Western tourists and a wheelchair-bound Filipino woman who takes a round trip every other night "as part of her therapy."

"She's assisted by a caregiver and her daughter. They said she was taking the ferry ride on her doctor's advice," Mirallosa said.

The staffers all agreed that the ferry service could catch on as soon as it became more visible and accessible to the public with the deployment of four more vessels and the completion of nine more terminals in the next few months.

5th man on deck

As standard operational procedure, there is actually a fifth officer expected on deck, but whose concerns do not necessarily deal with ticket sales.

Sgt. Nicanor Cutin, a member of the Presidential Security Group, was the "sea marshal" on duty that Friday.

In battle uniform, strapped with a sidearm and keeping an automatic rifle within reach, he performs another important function for his commander in chief.

Cutin said he was posted on deck to also remind passengers, particularly those carrying mobile phones with built-in cameras, not to take pictures of Malacañang when the ferry passed.

The ban is announced over the vessel's public address system shortly before the Palace comes into view. At this point, the ferry is also required to slow down from its average cruising speed of 6 to 8 knots.

Security is the reason why one of the sights along the course—one truly worth being on a postcard—cannot be photographed.

Such an irony, along with an eye-opening tour of how much of the Pasig River's old charm has been or has yet to be regained, appears to add to the experience promised by a P25 ticket.

(It could not immediately be ascertained if Bill got away with a forbidden snapshot.)

ELEKSYON 2007

Comelec offers cash for honest poll service

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS WILL REWARD TEACHERS AND OTHER civil servants who show honesty, nonpartisanship, courage, devotion to duty and other extraordinary acts while serving as election inspectors and canvassers in the May 14 elections.

Under Resolution No. 7841, Comelec set aside at least P345,000 for the "best" three Boards of Election Inspectors, three provincial, district, city or municipal Boards of Canvassers and five other outstanding employees of the Comelec and deputized government agencies.

"This is our way of giving our deputized personnel and employees something to look forward to for a job well done," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters in a press conference.

BEIs tally results in the precincts while BOCs consolidate the tallies and proclaim winning candidates in the local and national levels.

Abalos said he thought of the granting incentives after recalling the experience of a female election officer from Iloilo who was assigned to a town in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao during the 2004 polls.

The chair said the election officer was allegedly offered a bribe to rig the results of the mayoral race on the eve of election day itself but she rejected the offer. A second offer was later made, this time by another local official, and finally, a third one, made by the chief of police.

"After resisting all these, the mayor descended into the canvassing site and, in a fit of fury, kicked the ballot boxes, so I had the mayor arrested," recounted Abalos, who was then commissioner-in-charge of ARMM.

This, according to the Comelec chief, was a display of exemplary conduct that deserved to be recognized. The other Commissioners, he said, welcomed the idea and the result was Resolution 7841. *Jerome Aning*

A SMILE for small entrepreneurs

A NATIONWIDE ORGANIZATION OF ENTREPRENEURS, CIVIC-SPIRITED volunteers and ordinary citizens has embarked on a massive campaign to help small entrepreneurs in various communities in the country who can, in turn, help improve the local economy.

Through this project, the Ang Samahan ng mga Mangangalakal para sa Ikauunlad ng Lokal na Ekonomiya (A SMILE) hopes to provide livelihood to as many beneficiaries as possible to improve their quality of life, according to its incoming president, Manuel Jarmin.

Jarmin, in a press statement, said A SMILE, a party-list group which has been accredited by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), hopes to devote its efforts to "train and enable unproductive citizens to start a micro-business intended to create income and employment, and eventually graduating into progressive and successful businessmen."

The party-list group has been actively pursuing its humanitarian and livelihood development projects since 2002 to alleviate the plight of the marginalized members of society.

It has been giving small, interest-free and collateral-free loans to small vendors, and granting scholarships to deserving college students and job placement assistance to graduates.

It has also provided startup capital to deserving beneficiaries in the rural areas, such as those engaged in raising goats and cattle, duck raising and *balut*-making.

Jarmin said A SMILE has initiated a project with local government units which calls for its donation of vending carts for small-time vendors which can be rotated among the users in the community.

A SMILE has also been very active in working with nuns and priests in rehabilitation and charitable work, and with religious institutions and local government units in providing financial and humanitarian assistance to calamity victims.

₱1-B war on hunger; GMA orders fund release

From page A1

tified by a February survey of the Social Weather Stations polling organization as having a high incidence of hunger, said Cerge Remonde, the head of the Presidential Management Staff, who made the announcement in the state-run Radyo ng Bayan.

At a roundtable forum yesterday, the President announced that the barangay food terminals, or "*bagsakan*" centers, where the poor can buy cheap food and basic commodities, would benefit some 200,000 of 700,000 hungry families in Metro Manila by next month.

Also yesterday, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said that with the signing of the P1.126 trillion 2007 budget, the government was now ready to release P10 billion for the rehabilitation of typhoon-ravaged areas in Bicol, Southern Tagalog and some parts of the Visayas.

The SWS survey, conducted between Feb. 24 and Feb. 27, showed that one in every five Filipino families, or 3.4 million households, had gone hungry at least once in the past three months.

It said hunger incidence had worsened in Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, though it declined in the Visayas and barely changed in Mindanao.

Wake-up call

After initially disputing the survey's findings, the President has apparently decided to confront the problem.

"The result of the SWS survey is a wake-up call because the economy is really doing well. For the President, what is the use of the economy doing well if people are hungry," Remonde said in a phone interview.

According to Remonde, the President admonished some Cabinet members who continued to question the SWS findings during the National Nutrition Council meeting,

"The President said 'Let's not quibble over that. As long as there's one person who is hungry the government should do something about that,'" he said.

"She cracked the whip on all the frontline agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, to boost food production," Remonde said.

Point man

Some of the department heads who were called to the meeting were the secretaries of agriculture, social welfare and development, health, trade and industry and education.

Ms Arroyo designated Health Secretary Francisco Duque III as her "point man" to oversee the implementation of the "emergency hunger mitigation" program.

The emergency intervention will be largely done through three already existing programs: The food-for-school program under which rice and other foodstuffs are given to school children as an incentive for attending school; the food-for-work program where the poor and unemployed are hired by government to sweep the streets and for other community work; and the food-for-parishes program of the Catholic Church and other religious groups providing free meals to children or adults in various parts of Metro Manila.

In yesterday's roundtable discussion, which covered topics like "antihunger and antipoverty as social payback," the President asked her guest, a barangay kagawad (councilor), if it was true, as the SWS survey said, that more Filipino families were going hungry in Metro Manila.

The 71-year-old Maria Edejer who owns an eatery in a barangay near Malacañang said there was no truth to the claim.

Only the lazy are poor

"No, that's not true. In my barangay, people don't stop eating, they even eat more than four times a day. How can you say that people are going hungry?" said Edejer in Filipino.

Only the lazy people are poor, said Edejer, who got an approving "very smart" from Ms Arroyo.

Edejer, who also owns a small farm in Aklan, said she was supporting two families and paying for the education of her grandchildren.

She said the prices of food have gone down which is why many people in her barangay prefer to buy cooked meals.

The President told Edejer that food prices going down was no accident, it was part of the program of her government.

She and Cabinet secretary Ricardo Saludo then took turns discussing how her administration has created more jobs, provided health insurance and others.

Saludo said inflation during the Arroyo administration was the lowest in 20 years and under four presidents.

He said economic growth was the highest in the Arroyo administration at an average of 4.4 percent.

Saludo said that with more than 900,000 jobs created every year, the Arroyo administration also posted the highest jobs figure.

The number of poor actually went down from 25 million in 2000 to 20 million now and poverty incidence went down from 63 percent to 53 percent under the Aquino administration, he claimed.

Health insurance

Ms Arroyo pointed out that before she came to power, there was no Philhealth insurance. Now, 28 percent of Filipinos have Philhealth cards, she said.

Andaya said the P10 billion allocated in the 2007 budget for the rehabilitation of Bicol and other regions ravaged by four typhoons last year was now ready for release.

"We have been waiting for this budget authority so now that it's here we are wasting no time in making the releases," Andaya said.

He said the budget department was going over the "project listing" submitted by the agencies that will be using the funds to see if the programs identified were compatible with the thrust of CARE [Calamity Assistance and Relief Effort] specified by the budget allocation.

He said the P10 billion would be used to repair or replace public infrastructure damaged by storms Milenyo, Paeng, Reming and Senyang in Bicol, Southern Tagalong and the Visayas.

The four typhoons destroyed P180 billion worth of public works, houses and farms, and left hundreds of people dead and injured, he said.

Exempted from election ban

The budget secretary said relief work in disaster areas is exempt from the public works ban during the election period, provided that the scope of work is limited to the restoration or replacement of damaged infrastructure.

Just to be sure, however, he advised the government agencies to notify the Commission of Elections on the CARE-funded activities they will be implementing in the runup to the May 14 polls.

The P10 billion is to go to the following agencies and activities: Department of Agriculture, for assistance to farmers, P500 million; National Irrigation Administration, for irrigation repair, P500 million; Department of Agrarian Reform, for aid to agrarian reform communities, P500 million; National Electrification Administration, for repair of power lines, P500 million; state colleges and universities, for repair of college buildings, P400 million; Department of Health, for repair of hospitals, P300 million; Department of Public Works and Highways, P2 billion; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P750 million.

National Housing Authority, for relocation sites and housing construction, P750 million; local government units, for repair of rural health units and other rehabilitation programs, P500 million; Department of National Defense, Office of Civil Defense, for disaster relief, P1.3 billion, and Department of Education, for the repair of school buildings, P2 billion.

Gasoline prices up 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH WORLD OIL PRICES AGAIN starting to climb, local oil firms raised the prices of their gasoline products by 50 centavos a liter over the weekend.

First to implement a price hike was Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Petron Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc: at 6 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. jacked up prices at 12:01 a.m. and 6 a.m. today, respectively, while Flying V will increase prices at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Prices of diesel and kerosene remain unchanged.

After softening at the start of the year, prices of crude and finished products in the international market again started to rise.

Department of Energy data showed the regional benchmark Dubai crude averaged $58.03 as of March 22, up from $55.75 a barrel last month.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products spiked to a March 1-22 average of $75.88 a barrel from only $66.80 a barrel the month before.

Seizure of British sailors

MOPS-based diesel jumped to an average of $73.80 a barrel in the same period, from an average $71.67 a barrel in February.

News that 15 sailors from a British warship had been seized by Iran catapulted world oil prices to 2007 peaks.

Also contributing to higher prices were reports of weak levels of gasoline stocks in the United States, ahead of the expected huge demand ahead of the summer driving season, which would start in May.

Yesterday's gasoline price increase was the second for the year for a total of P1 a liter. Diesel and kerosene prices had increased only once for a total of 50 centavos a liter for each of the two fuels.

Since the start of the year, pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene had gone down by a total of P1.80 a liter.

With yesterday's price increase, premium unleaded gasoline prices are now at between P35.23 and P37.70 a liter and regular unleaded gasoline at between P34.50 and P36.80 a liter.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 25, 2007
5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

See, I am doing something new.

Thus says Yahweh, who opened a way through the sea and a path in the mighty waters, who brought down chariots and horses, a whole army of them, and there they lay, never to rise again, snuffed out like a wick.

But do not dwell on the past, or remember the things of old.

Look, I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth. Do you not see? I am opening up a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The beasts of the land will honor me, jackals and ostriches, because I give water in the wilderness and rivers in the desert that my chosen people may drink.

I have formed this people for myself; they will proclaim my praise.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

I strain ahead.

Everything seems to me as nothing compared with the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake I have let everything fall away and I now consider all as garbage, if instead I may gain Christ. May I be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the Law, but with the righteousness that God gives to those who believe.

May I know him and experience the power of his resurrection and share in his sufferings and become like him in his death, and attain through this, God willing, the resurrection from the dead!

I do not believe I have already reached the goal, nor do I consider myself perfect, but I press on till I conquer Christ Jesus, as I have already been conquered by him. No, brothers and sisters, I do not claim to have claimed the prize yet. I say only this: forgetting what is behind me, I race forward and run towards the goal, my eyes on the prize to which God has called us from above in Christ Jesus.

John 8:1-11

The adulterous woman.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak Jesus appeared in the Temple again. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them.

Then the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees brought in a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They made her stand in front of everyone. "Master," they said, "this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now the Law of Moses orders that such women be stoned to death; but you, what do you say?" They said this to test Jesus, in order to have some charge against him.

Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. And as they continued to ask him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who has no sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And he bent down again, writing on the ground.

As a result of these words, they went away, one by one, starting with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Then Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go away and don't sin again."

Commentary

"See I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah sings of the freshness, the newness, the rampant life on the earth, even in deserts and among the animals. The Lord opens a way in every situation and brings waters of life for the chosen people to drink (these are the waters of baptism, a way into the tomb of death and a way of life that is unbelievably fresh). Paul tells us what this water is-it is the light of the surpassing knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and his power flowing from the resurrection. We too must wish to know Christ and this power, by sharing in his sufferings and being formed into the pattern of his death.

Jesus is brought a woman caught in adultery—it is a set-up to trap Jesus. They care nothing for the woman or the law or truth. They want Jesus to make a decision that will turn a group against him. If he chooses the law then he will lose the people. If he chooses mercy than the leaders and priests, etc. will have more information to use against him. But Jesus does a new thing. He makes a path in a crowd that seeks to kill and leaders that are inhuman, self-righteous, and evil. He does nothing and refuses to choose one of their options. His choice is always the truth, and forgiveness and mercy—no matter the consequences. And us—where do we stand? With those quick to condemn others and make them pay publicly for what they did (not really caring about the law, but intent on going after people)? Or are we at least honest enough to know we stand with the woman, caught in our unfaithfulness, yet offered the protection and forgiveness of God?

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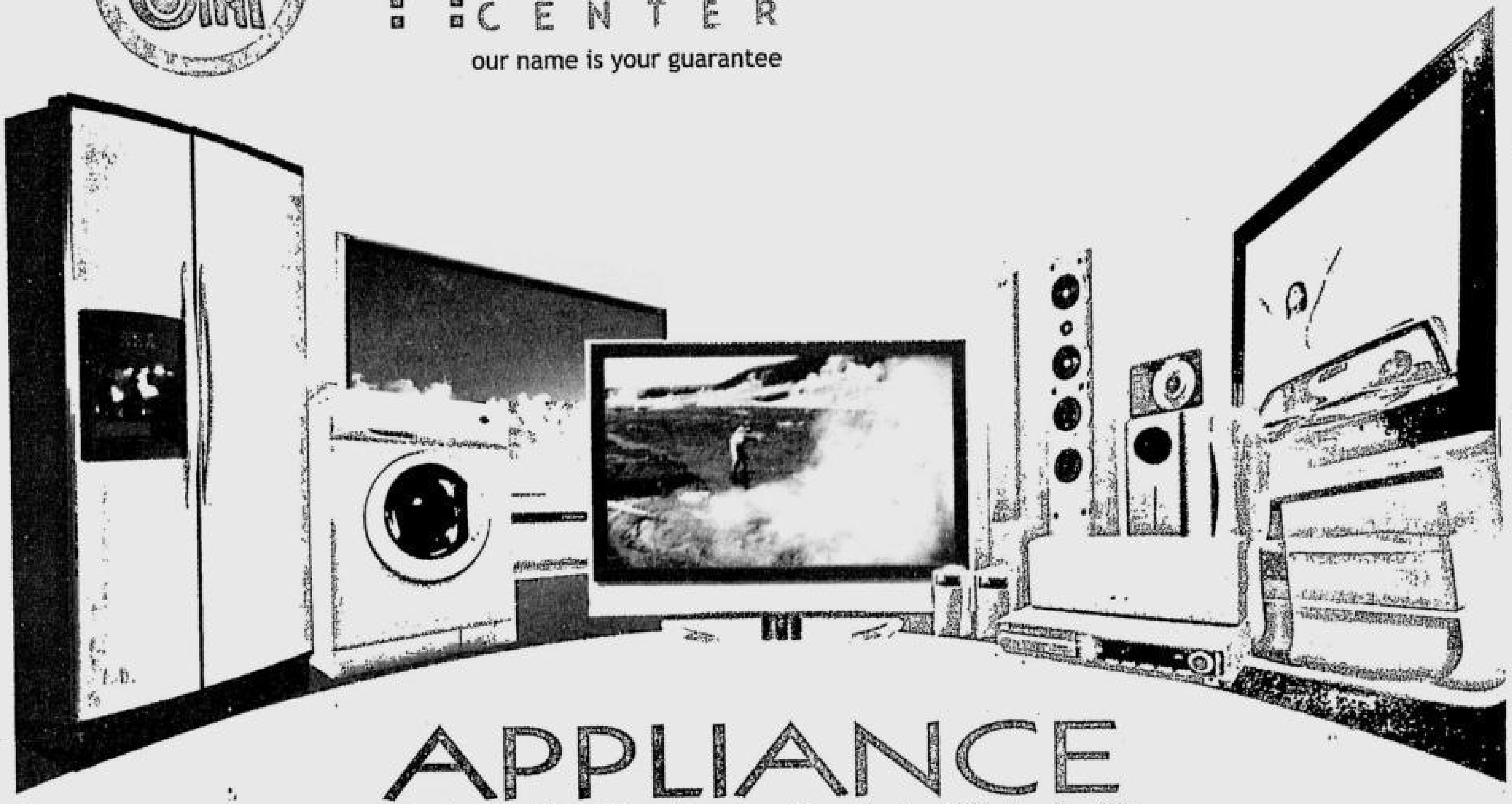

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IT centerpiece of campaigns

By Norman Bordadora

THE LATEST ADVANCES IN INformation technology, particularly the Internet, are taking center stage in this year's election campaign and candidates are maximizing their use to reach out to as many voters as possible.

Now candidates can get more exposure through podcasts and blogs in which they can present their respective platforms of government to the voters.

Genuine Opposition candidate Loren Legarda thanks the country's keeping up with global gains in technology for the new ways by which to reach the electorate.

"Technology has really changed our lives, even the way we candidates reach out to the people. There are Internet podcasting, website-hosting, blogging and limitless information at the click of a mouse," Legarda said.

She credits her sons Lanz and Lean for keeping her up to date on the latest technology such as podcasts and going on the Web via wireless Internet or "wi-fi."

Even for members of the media covering campaign sorties, Internet service, preferably of the wireless kind, is now almost indispensable.

One of the questions first asked on the campaign trail is whether their billeting arrangements include wi-fi and, if there is none, where the closest Internet shop with broadband capabilities is.

Thus, the Genuine Opposition has made sure its new campaign headquarters along Ayala Avenue in Makati City would have wi-fi-ready offices for reporters covering its candidates.

"It's equipped with the needs of reporters. It will have wireless DSL as well as computers for those who do not have laptops," said GO spokesperson Adel Tamano.

The GO campaign team made an informal survey of what journalists would need in its media center and one of the first things mentioned was Internet connection, and not the press office staples of what seems to be the olden days of just a decade ago—a printer, a fax machine and coffee.

On one campaign sortie in Mindanao, lawyer Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III went to a local radio station and declared that he was "the new and improved" Aquilino Pimentel.

Koko has been at the receiving end of brickbats over political dynasties since he's running for a Senate seat while his father, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr., is an incumbent senator until 2010.

And what better way to make it known to the tech-savvy youth than by using computer jargon and software nomenclature?

"I am Aquilino Pimentel 2.0i. I am the second version of Aquilino Pimentel. There is an improvement and an innovation," Koko said in an interview over a local radio station in Compostela Valley.

"It is right to say that if you knew my father Nene, you'd already know me. But there are some improvements," he joked.

The latest versions of computer software are usually differentiated from their predecessor-editions by adding the figures 2.0 or 3.0, depending on how many generations or improvements of the programs had been made.

The "i" seems to denote innovation.

"My father was a bachelor of laws with an undergraduate degree in political science. I have a law degree and my undergraduate degree was in mathematics. I am more scientific and I am more balanced," Koko said.

"And this is what I plan to bring to the Senate if I win," he added.

Koko, 36, is running on a platform of education and better opportunities for the youth.

ELEKSYON 2007

Party forms Christian slate from Senate bets

BAGUIO CITY—A GROUP THAT used to be affiliated with the Bangon Pilipinas party has started bringing "devout Christian" senatorial candidates to communities in the provinces to court the votes of over 11 million Filipino Born-Again Christians.

Founders of the Tatak Kristiyano Movement said selling former Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta of the administration's Team Unity, reelectionist Sen. Francis Pangilinan, an independent candidate, and Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano of the Genuine Opposition as a single Christian slate was not an easy task.

At a forum held here Saturday, local pastors and religious leaders called Oreta a "balimbing" (turncoat) for joining the administration slate.

Oreta gained notoriety for performing a triumphant jig on television during the impeachment trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

She acknowledged here that many people believed it was "the dancing queen" episode that triggered the Edsa II revolt that toppled Estrada from office.

Rolando Cucio, one of Tatak Kristiyano's founders, said the candidates they endorsed expected to be grilled by local evangelists because they would eventually carry the "Christian political agenda" in their forays.

Cucio said most Christian churches were primarily behind "good governance," and the possibility that the issue could generate a "Christian vote" had convinced 10 pastors and church workers to form Tatak Kristiyano.

He said the movement was spun off from Bangon Pilipinas in 2004 when its founder, Bro. Eddie Villanueva, decided to run for president. After Villanueva lost, the evangelical churches that supported him became polarized.

A Bangon Pilipinas official said Villanueva was no longer interested in pursuing the presidency in 2010.

Tatak Kristiyano's leaders said the movement intended to fill a huge vacuum in the political arena created by the lack of a platform calling for Christian leadership.

"A leader who believes in God won't steal because he is afraid of God," they said. "Evangelical churches often bewail [the absence of Christian leaders], and yet they rarely act to change this situation by supporting Christian candidates."

Tatak Kristiyano was formed originally as a forum to bring evangelical churches together again toward a single political direction, Cucio said.

But the movement has resolved to instead cultivate new Christian leaders for future elections "as long as the law permits it."

Cucio, who is also Bangon Pilipinas' deputy director general, said the group had not abandoned Villanueva's party. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Only moral support from ma–Dato

By Cynthia D. Balana

LIBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's younger son Diosdado Ignacio "Dato" Arroyo said he will get nothing but moral support from his mother if he runs for a seat in Congress in the May elections.

Speaking to reporters at his house here where he hosted a lunch for Team Unity candidates, Dato said there would be no misuse of government resources if he decides to heed the clamor for him to run in the first district of Camarines Sur.

"The only support I would get from my mother is the same that she gives to the candidates under Team Unity or to members of her political party and that is the moral support. She would give me a lot of moral support," he said.

Dato, who grew up in Quezon City but studied at the Ateneo de Naga, told reporters he would see to it that the local elections would be clean, honest and fair.

He might run for the post vacated by Rolando Andaya, who is now secretary of Budget and Management.

Dato denied that Malacañang had engaged the police and the military here to help push his congressional bid.

Dato said he had kept a "low profile" in this town and would always be prepared to help his constituents.

"If ever I decide to push through with my campaign, the security detailed to me is not going to pose any problems with my constituents. Their numbers are very minimal. It would not be difficult for me to reach out to the people or to be approached by them," he said.

Dato said he had been frequenting this town since 1995 which explained his command of the Bicol dialect. He transferred residence to Libmanan in 2005.

In 2006, Dato began taking an active role in public affairs in Bicol and was named chair of the Bicol Regional Tourism Council.

He also made his presence felt by launching his mother's pro-poor projects in Camarines Sur—with his activities faithfully covered by the Malacañang-managed Philippine Information Agency.

In July 2006, Dato launched five Tindahan Natin outlets in Naga City and the towns of Libmanan, Pasacao, Pamplona and Cabusao, all in Camarines Sur.

TU bets play ball

LIBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR—DONNING on yellow and blue basketball uniforms, five senatorial candidates of the administration's Team Unity ticket yesterday sweated it out at a basketball court at the packed Libmanan Sports Center here to woo Bicol votes.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., who hails from this town, and the President's son, Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo, who is now a resident here, fronted the Team Unity players who staged a ceremonial playoff with a local team that lasted 20 minutes.

The other Team Unity players were reelectionist Senators Edgardo Angara and Ralph Recto, Sulu Sultan Jamalul Kiram, Zambales Gov. Vic Magsaysay and former Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III. Cesar Montano arrived several hours late.

At the jump ball, 68-year-old Kiram grabbed the ball and passed it to Angara who lost it to Magsaysay.

Recto dominated the one-sided game as the predominantly high school students in the audience cheered for him when he hit the ring in his first free throw. He later made several successful baskets. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Go easy on jokes, Team Unity bets told

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—REP. LUIS R. VILLAfuerte, national chair of the Kabalikat ng Mamamayang Pilipino (Kampi), has cautioned the candidates of Team Unity against cracking jokes when delivering campaign speeches to avoid being misinterpreted.

Villafuerte, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo and a former top Marcos official, said listeners and viewers might take the candidates' statements intended as jokes seriously, and the opposition could use this against them.

The Bicol solon hosted the "Pulong Sulong" here Friday night which was covered live by four local radio stations and a national television network.

Tito Sotto, a Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) candidate, said Villafuerte was alluding to senatorial candidate Vic Magsaysay.

Sotto said Magsaysay, a former governor of Zambales, had told barangay captains in Tabaco City in jest to ensure that the votes for Team Unity candidates were counted.

The Zambales governor's joke which was made in the presence of the media made headlines in the prime-time evening news on Friday on national television.

He said the opposition could make an issue out of Magsaysay's joke because interpreting it seriously would mean that the barangay captains would be made to get involved in counting the votes.

But Villafuerte's warning went unheeded.

When it was his turn to address a crowd of some 1,000 local supporters and ward leaders here, Magsaysay was at it again but this time his jokes were directed at some of the candidates of Team Unity.

The audience enjoyed a good laugh when Magsaysay started talking about the political career of Gov. Chavit Singson of Ilocos Sur.

"*Wala nang lalaban kay Chavit, dahil ang lahat na kalaban niya ay patay na.* (No one will run against Chavit because all his enemies are dead)," Magsaysay said, as the audience exploded in laughter.

Angara willing to lose pork

LIBMANAN, CAmarines Sur—Team Unity senatorial bet Edgardo Angara yesterday proposed the abolition of the pork barrel of legislators and of Malacañang and putting the money into development projects in poor areas of the country instead.

Speaking to reporters during the Team Unity campaign sortie at the Libmanan Sports Center, Angara said he was willing to give up his own pork barrel as long as the other recipients did the same.

"I am willing to abolish it [but] everyone [must] agree that there will be no discretionary fund anywhere, whether it's the legislature or the executive," he said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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Clergy vs Palparan

MILITANT CLERGYmen with the Promotion of Church People's Response yesterday denounced controversial retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's intention to run for a congressional seat, saying he was better suited for a seat behind bars.

"Palparan does not deserve a seat in Congress, especially not through the party-list system which was originally intended to serve the interests of the poor and marginalized sectors," PCPR said in a statement.

"He should be spending his retirement years in jail for the numerous cases of killings and abduction of activists in Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas and Central Luzon under his command," the group said.

Commission on Human Rights member Eligio Mallari had earlier recommended the dropping of charges against Palparan and his men for the killings in the areas where they had been assigned.

Jerome Aning

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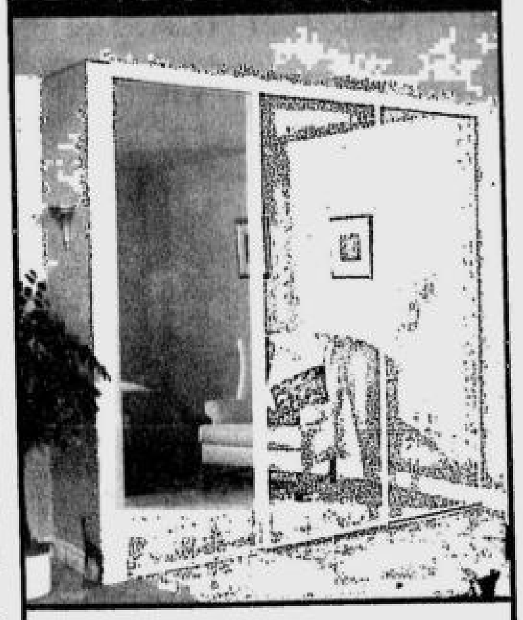

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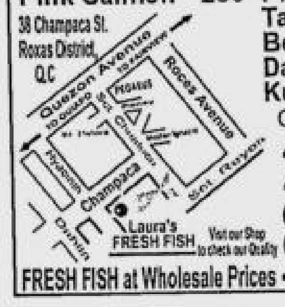

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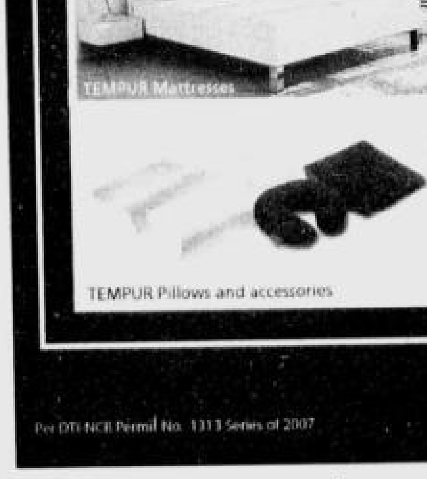

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Asean to drop penalty provisos from charter

By Volt Contreras

NUREMBERG—A PANEL DRAFTING the charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has dropped earlier proposals to put in provisions penalizing a member-state that may be found breaking agreements reached, according to the panel's chair.

The decision was arrived at as the panel prepared for a series of "debates," kicking off in Manila later this month, on the landmark document whose ratification is considered crucial for the 10-nation bloc to acquire a legal personality and speed up its political and economic integration, just like the European Union.

"There will be nothing in the Charter I can see that will sanction, punish, suspend [or] dismiss a state. There seems to be a positive thing about not putting that in the Charter," said former Philippine Ambassador Rosario Manalo on the sidelines of last week's foreign ministers meeting between Asean and the European Union.

Peace-builder

"Asean is supposed to be (about) peace-building. We are not there to have confrontations; there are ways of understanding things among member-states and an internal process of deciding how to relate to, say, a 'naughty' state," she told a group of Southeast Asian journalists touring this city at the invitation of the German federal government.

Her statements indicated the high-level Task Force on the Asean Charter (TFAC), which Manalo heads, had apparently dropped one of the key recommendations made by the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) during the 12th Asean Summit held in Cebu in January.

The EPG is a group of elder Asean statesmen assembled in 2005 to come up with guidelines for the draft charter, their mission being to ensure that Asean would remain a relevant regional force—and not a mere talk shop—going into the 21st century. Former President Fidel Ramos represented the Philippines in the EPG.

At the Cebu summit, among the EPG recommendations submitted to the heads of state was for the 39-year-old Asean to finally "adjust" its tradition of noninterference in the internal affairs of its members

To have a firmer decision-making process, the body should retain its consensus-building approach but should also consider imposing sanctions on members that commit a "serious breach" of Asean principles and commitments, with the penalties ranging from suspension of certain privileges or of its membership, the EPG had proposed.

No consensus

But some two months later, Manalo explained that "it doesn't necessarily mean that the leaders and foreign ministers will adopt in to what has been stated by the EPG... There was no, I would think, consensus to carry it the way it was stated (by the EPG)."

Asked what Asean member-states could then invoke in the proposed charter in order to deal with a non-complying state, Manalo said: "I think the foreign ministers will still be discussing it among themselves and bring it up ultimately to the heads of state on a case-to-case basis—their recommendations on what it is they want to do, how to penalize or sanction the naughty state."

The TFAC was in Germany, which currently holds the EU presidency, for the 16th EU-Asean foreign ministers meeting.

At the German government's invitation, the panel went to Berlin, Brussels and Nuremberg for two weeks for meetings with various EU institutions to gather what Manalo called "insights and perspectives" that could guide Asean's own bid for integration.

Asean leaders expect the TFAC to have the draft charter ready for signing by the next summit to be held in Singapore toward the end of the year, Manalo said.

The panel is meeting for the third time on March 27-28 in Manila and may have the first draft ready by then to be submitted to the foreign ministers' level by the end of July, she said.

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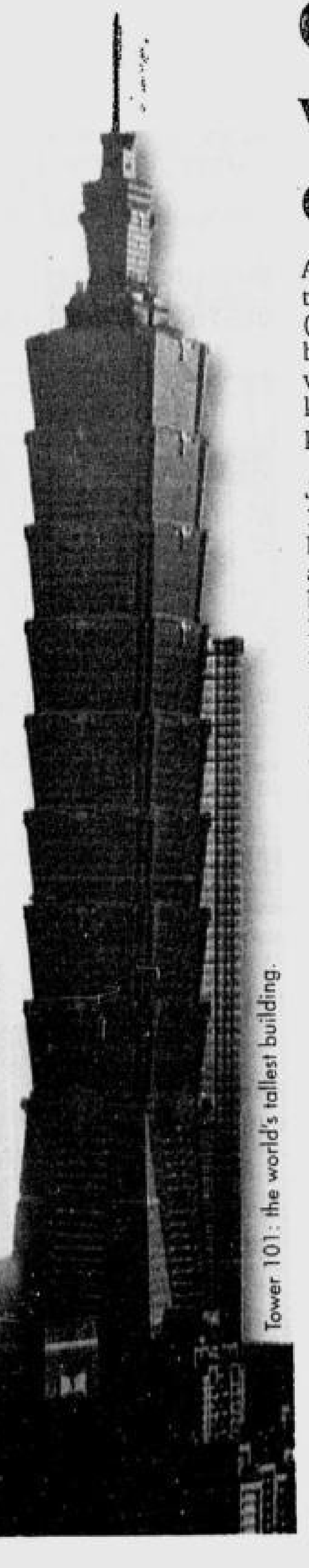

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Court orders veterans bank exec's ouster

A MAKATI COURT HAS DECLARED A LONG-time director of the Philippine Veterans Bank (PVB) "not qualified to be a stockholder of the bank" for not being an heir of a World War II veteran, and ordered that his nearly 2.1-million common and 190 preferred shares be repurchased by the bank as treasury shares.

In a decision promulgated on March 1, Judge Celso Untalan of Makati RTC Branch 149 further ordered that the shares of lawyer Romeo G. Roxas, the bank director, be eventually disposed of in accordance with the bank's bylaws and Philippine laws governing the PVB's existence and operation, or to be sold to its other qualified stockholders.

PVB, a private commercial bank owned by nearly 400,000 Filipino World War II veterans and their heirs, is a special-status bank that was created by law in 1963 to honor the heroism of the veterans. In addition, it was granted government-funds depository status.

Although the bank was forced to close in 1985 due to mismanagement and the squandering of its resources during the Marcos regime, the veterans struggled to reopen it in 1992.

The bank, now managed by professional veterans and their heirs, has accumulated assets of over P27 billion and has turned a profit since 1992. By law, 20 percent of its profits are remitted to the veterans for their medical and other needs.

The case against Roxas was filed by stockholders Jose Apolinario and Antonio Zacarias.

The court found that based on the evidence presented by the defendant himself, Roxas could not possibly be the son of World War II veteran Santiago Roxas as he had claimed.

"Based on official records emanating from the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, it appears that the Santiago Roxas therein is not the same as the Santiago Galang Roxas, who is the father of Atty. Romeo G. Roxas, consequently, the latter cannot be considered an orphan or a compulsory heir of a deceased veteran," Judge Untalan ruled.

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Porking

EDITORIAL

BUDGET SECRETARY ROLANDO ANDAYA JR. would have us believe that the Arroyo administration had nothing to do with it—that is, with the virtual doubling of the congressional pork barrel in the newly enacted 2007 budget from P6.2 billion to P11.4 billion.

"I think the agreement to adjust the PDAF [the Priority Development Assistance Fund] was done in the bicam [the bicameral conference committee]. We were not privy during the budget reconciliation negotiations. When we officially got the bill ratified by both chambers, the increase was already there."

This is called being economical with the truth, a fact of life that has more to do with politics rather than economics. Andaya, a former congressman who inherited his father's facility with numbers, seems to have forgotten—or at least assumes that we have all forgotten—that the country's first trillion-peso budget almost did not make it through the bicam stage, precisely because opposition senators wanted to reduce pork-barrel items, and administration congressmen, following Malacañang's direct instructions, wanted to retain them.

Andaya would also have us believe that he was shocked—yes, shocked—to see the increase materialize in front of him. The General Appropriations Act is an enormous document, and we won't be surprised if even the budget secretary himself failed to read every single page. But does he expect anyone to believe that he or other high officials in Malacañang did not monitor the pork barrel items closely, as if their political lives did not depend on it?

Not least, Andaya would also have us believe that the dramatically increased funds in the pork barrel may even go unused, even to the point of reminding the public that President Macapagal-Arroyo has the power to "impound or freeze all PDAF releases." He also listed several factors—the current election-related moratorium on PDAF releases, the election ban on public works, the transition to a new Congress (the 14th, in our country's short history), when traditionally nothing gets done—and concluded, rather optimistically: "So there will be a long pork holiday, if you wish to call it that."

No, we don't wish to call it that. Secretary Andaya is playing mind games with the Filipino people. Whether Malacañang's favored politicians reach deep into the pork barrel in March or in July, the fact remains that the barrel is much fatter now; there is more pork to go around. Whether the doubling in funds is enjoyed by the present set of politicians favored by Malacañang or by the set of Malacañang-allied politicians elected in May, the fact remains that the available amount of funds for pork barrel use is now a staggering P11.4 billion; there is more pork to go around.

And go around, it certainly will. In the last two years—that is, since the advent of the Hello Garci scandal—the administration has rediscovered the political uses of the pork barrel with a vengeance. It is no exaggeration to say that adroit utilization of the pork barrel helped stop the two impeachment proceedings against the President. It is also no hyperbole to say that those who voted for the President's impeachment have failed to receive a single centavo.

The doubling of the pork barrel is yet another of the President's insurance policies.

Andaya seeks to reassure the public about the **size** of the pork barrel by talking about the **schedule**. Releases won't take place until July, he says. Hmmm. The next possible impeachment challenge against the President can be filed, at the earliest, only in July. What a coincidence.

Bitter lessons

FOREIGN COMMENT

FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE US AND BRITISH FORCES invaded Iraq. Look at the war now. Nobody could possibly say Iraq or the world is safer today than in 2003. It is hard not to be stunned by the enormity of the losses caused by this misstep.

Not all diplomatic options were exhausted before the conflict started. The plan for the postwar occupation of Iraq was based on overly optimistic assumptions. Above all, the United States failed to engineer a united international front for the war—a front that should have included Islamic nations. It is important to ponder the bitter lessons of the war without belittling them with the luxury of hindsight.

The biggest failure of the US and British governments was the discovery that weapons of mass destruction, cited as the central cause for the war, did not exist. The two governments manipulated intelligence to make the world believe a security crisis was unfolding. The manipulation has been exposed by the US Congress and other organizations.

A mistake offers many lessons. The first thing to do is to face up to the mistake.

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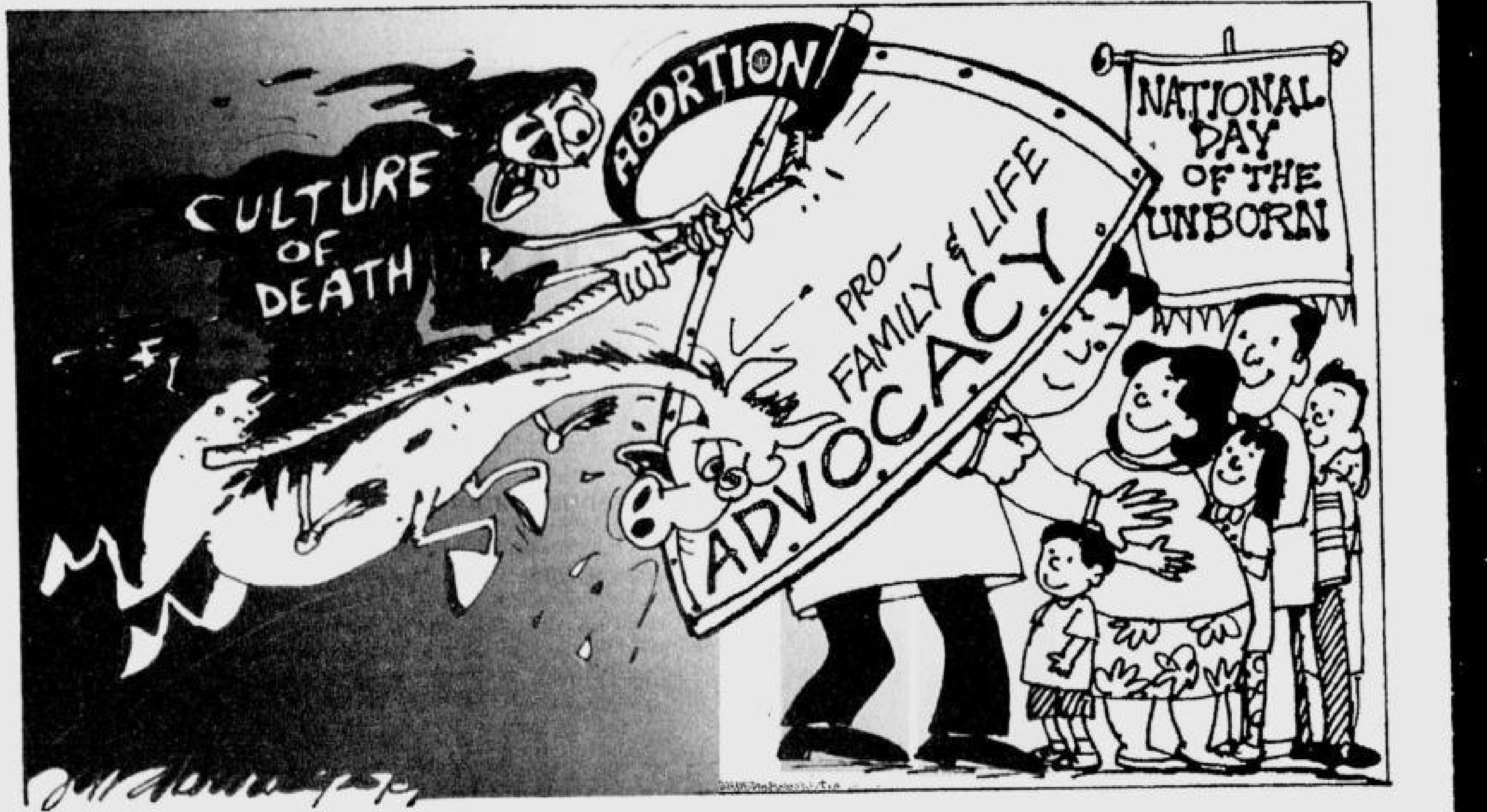


Defrauding the farmers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THERE WAS A STARTLING ITEM ON THE front page of the Feb. 17 issue of the INQUIRER that "government officials have spent a hefty P419 million on fancy mobile phones, cell phone lines, prepaid cards, clothes, medicines, sumptuous meals and unnecessary travels instead of the improvement of farmers' lands in 2004 and 2005, according to a Commission on Audit report.

"The amount was part of the P20.162 billion taken from the forfeited Marcos secret Swiss deposits to bankroll the activities and projects of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Implementing Agencies (CIA's) to benefit farmers in those two years."

I was particularly upset by the report because of the part I played in upholding the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law when it was challenged before the Supreme Court in 1989. The several petitions against the law were raffled to me and I had the privilege and opportunity (and burden) of studying the many constitutional issues raised. Fortunately, I had the assistance of two of my best legal researchers, Anita Jamerlan Rey and Grace Maniquiz Tan, former top students of mine at the San Beda College of Law.

Our study took weeks of research and analysis before I was ready to write my draft decision for the consideration of the Court en banc. Knowing that the case would call for a lot of dry legal discussion that might be appreciated only by lawyers, I felt I should make a special effort to get the attention also of the people in general because of the serious public interest involved, To do this, I began my *ponencia* as follows:

"In ancient mythology, Antaeus was a terrible giant who blocked and challenged Hercules for his life on his way to Mycenae after performing his eleventh labor. The two wrestled mightily and Hercules flung his adversary to the ground thinking him dead, but Antaeus rose even stronger to resume their struggle. This happened several times to Hercules' increasing amazement. Finally, as they continued grappling, it dawned on Hercules that Antaeus was the son of Gaea and could never die as long as any part of his body was touching his Mother Earth. Thus forewarned, Hercules then held Antaeus in the air beyond the reach of the sustaining soil and crushed him to death.

"Mother Earth. The sustaining soil. The giver of life without whose invigorating touch even the powerful Antaeus weakened and died.

"The cases before us are not as fanciful as the foregoing tale. But they also tell of the elemental forces of life and death, of men and women who, like Antaeus, need the sustaining strength of the precious earth to stay alive."

What followed was a discussion of the various principles of Constitutional Law, including the police power, the power of eminent domain and the power of taxation, along with procedural doctrines based on the Rules of Court and jurisprudence. Those interested can read the decision in full in Association of Small Landowners v. Secretary of Agrarian Reform, 175 SCRA 343, covering all of 51 pages.

It was concurred in by all the members of the Supreme Court then, namely, Chief Justice Fernan and Justices Narvasa, Melencio-Herrera, Gutierrez, Paras, Feliciano, Gancayco, Padilla, Bidin, Sarmiento, Cortes, Griño-Aquino, Medialdea and Regalado. And I'm happy that there was no need for a separate concurring opinion to add something I may have failed to say.

Speaking of the CARP, I stressed that "generations yet to come are as involved in this program as we are today, although hopefully only as beneficiaries of a richer and more fulfilling life we will guarantee to them tomorrow through our thoughtfulness today."

In its conclusion, the *ponencia* said:

"By the decision we reach today, all major legal obstacles to the comprehensive agrarian reform program are removed, to clear the way for the true freedom of the farmer. We may now glimpse the day he will be released not only from want but also the exploitation and disdain of the past and from his own feelings of inadequacy and helplessness. At last his servitude will be ended forever. At last the farm on which he toils will be his farm. It will be his portion of Mother Earth that will give him not only the staff of life but also the joy of living. And where it once bred for him only deep despair, now can he see in it the fruition of his hopes for a more fulfilling future. Now at last can he banish from his small plot of earth his insecurities and dark resentments and rebuild in it 'the music and the dream.'"

In this column nine years ago, I wrote against the conversion of agricultural lands into golf courses for the tourists. In 2004, the P728-million fertilizer fund for the farmers was embezzled for election purposes. And now, money belonging to the farmers has again been misspent by the DAR for unnecessary travels, sumptuous meals, and other caprices for privileged bureaucrats. What has happened to the music and the dream?

Hands and fingers

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: WHY DO GORILLAS HAVE BIG nostrils?

Answer: Because they have big fingers.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 8, 1-11), fingers do a lot of talking. On one hand are the accusing fingers of the Scribes and the Pharisees pointed toward the woman caught in adultery; and on the other is the exonerating finger of Jesus writing on the ground. Take a look at your hands. Do you have accusing, condemning fingers? Do you have dirty hands that grab, steal, hurt and often turn into a clenched fist in anger? Or, do you have welcoming, pardoning and approving fingers? Do you have clean hands that share, reach out, console and often are folded before God in prayer? Your fingers and hands say a lot. Are you listening?

* * *

Some people spend their whole lifetime pointing at themselves, only to realize in the end how empty and vain the whole exercise was. As we go through life, may we point at something or someone greater than us. And some people spend their whole lifetime grabbing and hoarding earthly wealth and honors, only to realize in the end how futile and burdensome it all was. May we go through life with open hands that gratefully receive and generously share and give.

* * *

We don't know what Jesus wrote on the ground, but the picture of Jesus pointing to the ground was in itself very symbolic. It was Jesus' way of reminding the proud, the arrogant and the self-righteous of their mortality. Lent is that special time of the year we are reminded that we are dust, and to dust we will return. Think about it: The personal concerns and agenda you have right now won't matter five minutes after you're gone.

* * *

Expect a lot of finger-pointing and even mud-slinging as election time nears. And who gets caught in the crossfire? Who suffers like the woman caught in adultery, whom the Pharisees and scribes made to stand in the middle of the crowd? It is the simple, hardworking, innocent and helpless citizens of our land who are at the mercy of selfish leaders and politicians. As a Korean proverb says it: "The shrimps die when the whales fight."

* * *

Fr. Leopoldo Jaucian, SVD, will be ordained bishop tomorrow at Christ the King Seminary, in the very church where he served as a lowly diligent sacristan before he entered the seminary. It is his humility that has endeared him to so many people. Even as our provincial superior, he was very understanding and welcomed confreres with very open arms. These are the very same traits that will make him effective and efficacious in the Diocese of Abra, where he will be installed on March 31. "*Manete in me*" (Remain in me) is his motto. Bishop Pol is Bishop Pol because he has truly, humbly and conscientiously remained in God. Dear Bishop, continue to have open hands that love, and folded hands that pray.

* * *

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Annunciation. Like Mary, may we be open to God's will for whatever is up ahead. In God's will is our peace. If you are disturbed or upset a lot, perhaps, you are too focused on your will. Listen and obey His will, and you will find wisdom, freedom and peace.

* * *

Next Sunday, Palm Sunday, is also Alay Kapwa Sunday. Lent is not just about feeling religious and feeling good. Lent is about loving and being good to our brothers and sisters, especially to the little ones. God's people are suffering, He is calling. What are you doing?

* * *

To those who are hesitant or afraid to dip their fingers into the fermented political waters around us, I urge them to please get involved now before we all get drowned. Evil and scheming people thrive and their number grows because good people remain quiet and hide. Evil and scheming people in this country will continue to be on a roll as long as the good continue to be timid and uninvolved. The former have their 3Gs—guns, goons and gold. Let's counter them with our own 3Gs—God, goodness and guts!

* * *

Why do you lose sight of your mission? Because you are focused on your commission, and on your personal ambition, and often you are distracted by life's "*consomisyon*" (problems). Stay focused on your mission!

* * *

You can now send SVD Mass Cards (for the deceased and the living) to your relatives and friends through LBC Express outlets within Metro Manila and Luzon. Soon, the facility will be available nationwide.

* * *

Bantay Matanda, an NGO, is inviting you to attend a forum titled "How to handle a chronically ill patient," on Saturday, March 31, 2007, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Janssen Hall, Christ the King Seminary at E. Rodriguez Boulevard Ext., Quezon City. The main speaker will be Dr. Lou Querubin, a psychiatrist from Medical City. There will be a recollection for caregivers in observance of the Lenten Season from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the same venue. An inspirational talk, on "The Challenges of a Caregiver Today," will be given by Fr. Romy Castro, SVD. For inquiries, please call 373-2262 or 0917-4167849.

* * *

God is love; and he that dwelleth in God, and God in him. (John 4:16) Be inspired by daily Bible verses, text ON<space>BIBLE and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, give me hands and fingers that truly care and share. Amen.

Cleansing and reforming the judiciary

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban

THE DISMISSAL OF COURT OF APPEALS JUStice Elvi John Asuncion shows the continuing determination of the Supreme Court to cleanse the judicial ranks of unfits and misfits. The imposition of this severe sanction should be contextualized with other events.

Serious corruption allegations. Earlier, Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno summoned the CA members to a private tongue-lashing about persistent allegations of corruption especially in the issuance of TROs (temporary restraining orders). After lawyers who obtained these improvident TROs freely bragged of their "insider connections," the high court was naturally enraged.

Thereafter, the Court grimly issued a resolution banning the employment of the spouses of CA members as coterminous workers. Deemed resigned as of March 31, 2007 were 19 spouses employed in the CA. To show equal treatment, the other halves of the members of the Supreme Court and other appellate courts were likewise included in the prohibition. The high court explained that the resolution enforces the call for "an ethical judiciary that is above suspicion." Apparently, the ban was triggered by the perception that some spouses were being used as conduits by litigants.

A few days ago, Chief Justice Puno said that the Supreme Court will issue new rules governing election cases, after top election lawyers Romulo Macalintal, Leila de Lima, Sixto Brillantes and Pete Quadra denounced graft in the handling of these cases. These decisive acts should distance the tribunal from the recent PERC survey which found the Philippines as the most corrupt in Asia.

Extrajudicial killings. The high court is single-minded not only in excising corruption but also in resolving extrajudicial killings. Soon after the Melo Report was made public, the Court designated about a hundred regional trial courts to act as special courts to "hear, try and decide" these unusual cases within 60 days. Noting that 13 judges have been killed since 1999, the Court asked the National Bureau of Investigation to form a special task force to protect judges handling sensitive cases.

Cynics have lampooned the special courts as useless, because the killers should first be investigated and prosecuted before they could be tried and convicted. True, but investigation and prosecution belong to other agencies. The Supreme Court has read the "signs of the times" and promptly responded with the means within its authority. Can the same be said of the police, the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice?

Action program for judicial reforms. These speedy actions of the tribunal, collectively proclaimed as "statesmanship" by the INQUIRER editorial last Friday, are not isolated bursts of energy; they are parts of a larger picture, the ongoing long-term Action Program for Judicial Reforms (APJR) that the Supreme Court, under then Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr., approved unanimously on Dec. 8, 2000.

Comprehensive in scope, the APJR covers reforms in the education of judges, their selection, qualifications, ethics, compensation, security and welfare. It also includes the provision of adequate judicial tools and dignified courthouses, as well as programs to decongest dockets and to strengthen judicial independence and integrity.

Accordingly, the Court has improved the bar examination, strengthened the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja), set up a searchable electronic library, dispatched mobile courts, institutionalized alternative dispute resolution methods, pilot-tested various case management systems and initiated about 100 other projects too numerous to discuss in one column.

Suffice it to say that the APJR has earned the support of major institutions like the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank as well as of the aid agencies of Australia, Canada, Japan, United States and others. The WB has hailed it as a model for other judiciaries.

Stability of doctrines and programs. During my term as chief justice, the Court pursued the APJR objectives with special focus on the four ACID problems that corrode justice: (1) limited access to justice by the poor, (2) corruption, (3) incompetence and (4) delay. I added an end goal for the APJR: to safeguard liberty and nurture prosperity under the rule of law. Chief Justice Puno has said that this objective has a "long longevity . . . that is not only right . . . but also ripe in time." The Court "exported" it by sponsoring the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity last October.

In 2006 also, the Court inaugurated the complete computerization of the Sandiganbayan; received a P300-million no-strings-attached Japanese grant through Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamasaki to build the Philja center in Tagaytay; topped off model electronic courthouses in Angeles and Lapu-Lapu cities; completed the doubling of judicial compensations authorized by RA 9227; and finished many other projects.

Unlike the political branches of government, Supreme Court doctrines and programs survive leadership changes, because chief justices have always been appointed from the ranks of the associate justices. Thus, ownership of these projects is collegial and institutional, and goes beyond the tenure of the proponents.

* * *

May I thank Ruben Sebastian and Jason Baguia for informing me through e-mail that "Christifideles Laici" is not a Vatican II document. They are correct. It is a post-synodal exhortation to the laity from Pope John Paul II. "Apostolicam Actuositatem" is the Vatican II document on lay empowerment.

* * *

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Women of Abanse! Pinay

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A MOTHER OF EIGHT, A REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS advocate, a cancer survivor, a peace and human rights advocate, a lawyer and advocate of women's legal rights, a church and civic leader, a community organizer, and a former city councilor—these are the eight women nominees of Abanse! Pinay who filed their certificates of candidacy yesterday with the Comelec.

No. 1 nominee is Tessie Banaynal Fernandez, who aside from raising eight children while working on issues of housing rights for the urban poor and community-based approaches to domestic violence, also managed to found non-government organizations and forged a strong working relationship with the local government of Cebu City.

It was Tessie, as head of Lihok Pilipina, the Cebu-based chapter of the national women's group Pilipina, who in the 1980s recognized the primacy of violence against women as a women's issue. To this end, she established "Bantay Banay," which uses a community-based approach to address the needs of battered women as well as of rape survivors. "Bantay Banay" has today been adopted by 70 cities and municipalities which have set up their own chapters.

At the same time, Tessie also helped set up the Urban Poor Office of Cebu City, the first for a local government unit, that pioneered land proclamations and community mortgage programs (CMPs) that give the poor direct responsibility for the uplift of their neighborhoods and amortization of their housing units. It was also mainly through Tessie's efforts that Cebu received an award from the UN for being the "Most Woman-Friendly City" in Asia-Pacific. "Bantay Banay" and Lihok Pilipina have themselves been recognized as outstanding NGOs by the "People Power" awards led by former President Cory Aquino.

But for us her friends, all these pale besides Tessie's accomplishments as a wife and mother—balancing her familial and domestic responsibilities with her many social and professional commitments. When we once asked her how she managed such a large family, she replied simply: "If you raise the older children well, they will take responsibility for helping raise the younger ones!"

* * *

KALA Pulido Constantino has done a lot of work with various lobbying and advocacy groups, and served as chief of staff of Rep. Pat Sarenas, Abanse's first representative. Married to Red, a writer and campaigner on environmental issues for Greenpeace, Kala combines grass-roots experience, activism and a clear-eyed appreciation of political realities.

I'm sure being described as a "cancer survivor" will not sit well with Yasmin Busran-Lao, but for me that is what is most outstanding about this academic, Islamic scholar, women's organizer, wife and mother. In Abanse's 2004 campaign, she went around the country even as she was undergoing chemotherapy for her newly diagnosed illness. Yasmin has written a groundbreaking book on raising gender awareness among Filipino Muslim women. The book situates the issue within Filipino Muslim culture and harks back to the teachings of the Koran to challenge prevailing stereotypes of women.

Tessie, Kala and Yasmin are the top three nominees of Abanse! Pinay and they will sit in the House as party-list representatives should the party garner the needed 1.5 million votes. But the party-list law allows for other nominees to serve as alternates should any one of the three lose a seat.

* * *

THE OTHER nominees are Karen Tañada, executive director of the GZO Peace Foundation who has many years of experience in legislative lobbying and peace negotiations. Isabelita "Bing" Solamo is a lawyer and executive director of the Davao-based Pilipina Legal Resources Center (PLRC), which has conducted research into—and espoused advocacy for—legal equality, especially for Muslim women.

Lina Tan has long been involved in social issues in the Dagupan-Lingayen area, founding an NGO that works with exploited girls and young women, and organizes community women in income-generating endeavors. Pauline Nayra heads an NGO based in Tacloban that, among other things, organizes communities around VAW (violence against women) issues as part of the "Bantay Banay" network.

Finally, Mary Ann Duran-Diño, whom I have mentioned from time to time in this space, is a former councilor of Victorias City in Negros Occidental, an energetic campaigner and champion of women and youth among local governments.

* * *

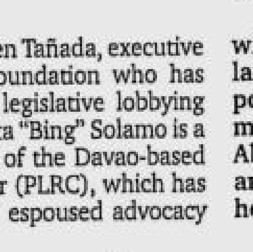
"WHAT is our story?" asked Lina during a meeting yesterday, before the Abanse nominees left for the Comelec. For Tessie, it is "our desire as mothers and women to reflect the values we teach our children, within our families and in our homes, into public spaces and throughout the country. To ensure that the values we espouse are honored and put into practice in governance and legislation."

For Mary Ann, it is the fact that "we are waging an electoral struggle despite the fact that we have no money, very little resources and even less time." This sentiment is echoed by Kala, who pays tribute to the many volunteers who donate their time and effort to campaign for Abanse! Pinay "even if they get next to nothing from us, sometimes just P10 to buy water for the whole day."

And for Karen, it is the continuing struggle to keep women's issues visible and prominent in the legislature, for despite the many positive steps taken, the journey remains long and the goal of full equality elusive.

For me, the story of my official engagement with Abanse has come to an end, as I resigned last year as president of the party list, due to possible conflict of interest. But the story of my involvement with women's issues, through Abanse! Pinay among other groups, continues, and it should be obvious by now where my heart lies. ***Mabuhay ang kababaihan!***

Necessary noise



PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE SENATORIAL RACE, WITH ITS SHINING stars and famous faces, may seem like the defining contest of the May 2007 election, the one on which the administration and opposition are expected to focus their greatest energies. But a hard look at what the government is doing on the ground suggests a different picture. My view is that this election is not going to be a referendum on anybody. It is rather going to be a purge, a cleansing of the elements that the system cannot assimilate.

The crucial contest is going to be over the party-list seats, and the government's objective is unambiguously the total elimination of the small but noisy band of Left-leaning parties.

It is now clear that this has been the goal all along of the deployment of troops in Metro Manila's slums in the last few weeks. These impoverished but vote-rich communities have steadily provided the progressive party-list groups their winning margins since the first party-list elections of 1998. Their voters must be inoculated against the virus of party-list "communism." They must be alerted to the hidden agenda of these "enemies of the state," who have used public office to undermine the political order that gives them space. This is the line being peddled by the military in urban slums and remote rural communities—and, increasingly, in various universities and colleges all over the country.

Why the government has assigned the military to undertake this propaganda war may seem puzzling. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's regime has radio and television stations and newspapers at its disposal. It can make use of these and the entire local government machinery to spread its word. It has more than enough mercenaries in both houses of Congress to launch a sustained offensive against its perceived ideological antagonists. Why ask the troops to perform what is patently a political function?

The answer can only be that the government has run out of arguments. That is why it is sending out the military to universities and communities. The mission is not to debate but to indoctrinate, not to educate but to intimidate, not to enlighten but to threaten. So, it is not puzzling why the military is at the forefront of this campaign. The objective is not to use the vote to eliminate the radical party-list groups; the aim is to eliminate them, period. What is puzzling is how, in the face of this, we can continue to believe this is still a democracy.

It is ironic that the party-list system, for all its imperfections, has somehow functioned as a safety-valve mechanism for a society that has been choking from its ineradicable dysfunctions. Indeed, it has prolonged the life of this obsolete political system by lending to its elitist institutions a patina of democratic openness.

One doesn't need to be a political theorist to know that the present party-list system is no more than a token, a concession that came by installment. The party-list system, as provided for under Article VI, Sec. 5 of the 1987 Constitution, reserves 20 percent of all congressional seats to "registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations." It took 11 years after the ratification of the new Constitution before this limited version of the European system of proportional representation could be put in place.

It also took a while before the progressive forces that battled the Marcos dictatorship from aboveground and underground could see in this tokenism the promise of a peaceful road to social emancipation. For decades, the Philippine Left had known no other form of politics but armed revolution and pressure politics. Activists debated the wisdom of accepting this token, and many scoffed at the idea of entering a terrain that had been previously mapped by traditional politicians.

One of the very first Left-wing groups to take up the challenge of mainstream politics was Akbayan, which wove into the organization various strands of the Filipino Left. Akbayan joined the 1998 congressional election and won one seat. Encouraged, it made a bid again in the 2001 election and won two seats. In 2004, it got the maximum number of three seats. Bayan Muna entered the process in 2001 and garnered the maximum number of three seats in its first try.

The party-list representatives contribute new perspectives to the deliberations of the House of Representatives. As outsiders to the game of traditional politics, they question the basic assumptions of government policy. As veterans of movement politics, they inject a refreshing irreverence into legislative discourse.

In the language of social systems analysis, the party-list groups introduce necessary "noise" into a system that is prone to lull itself into a fake consensual tranquility. By generating feedback, they make it possible for society to observe itself, to talk to itself, and to reform itself.

Not surprisingly, the Arroyo regime is allergic to feedback. It is scared of its own shadow. It is so paranoid it regards every criticism as a threat to its survival. If it should ever succeed in revising the Charter, the first thing it will surely do is erase the party-list system. But for as long as it is there, the regime strategy is to deny the progressives any place in it. Now, Akbayan's Etta Rosales has charged that the government has created its own party-list pawns which it is bent on installing by hook or by crook. I trust that the voting public will see through this scheme. We don't need more stooges in Congress. We need fearless party-list legislators who will irritate the system.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

At the center of the universe

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS "CONCERNED." THE UNITED States is threatening to stop its military aid if the human rights violations are not dealt with satisfactorily. During the hearing, US Sen. Barbara Boxer said it remained to be seen if President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge to solve the killings and stop the violence would be "followed by real and tangible actions. UN Special Rapporteur Philip Alston chided the armed forces for "being in a state of almost total denial of its need to respond effectively and authentically to the significant number of killings which have been convincingly attributed to them."

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

And in Google, when you type in "political killings," it will result in the Philippines emerging as the first 10 pops.

The world is watching, and the government is desperately trying to switch the channel.

Only the most hardened will claim that politically motivated crimes are good. GMA is against them. In her 2006 Sona, she declared that she condemned political killings "in the harshest possible terms." It didn't matter that she congratulated, in the same speech, retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, the kindly gentleman who has been nicknamed "Butcher" and "Berdugo" by the victims' families.

This well-practiced policy of agreeing with the obvious and denying the rest is standard when it comes to anything negative said about the government. In the glorified world of Gloria, everyone is at fault except her. That the political killings are indeed occurring, and that the government is accountable for them, are something this administration has railed against, roared against, campaigned against, and sent diplomatic teams all over the world (on taxpayers' money) to argue against. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo has dispatched his diplomats to their various posts with the reminder that, "We need a consistent message on the issue of unexplained killings and human rights, particularly to balance the anti-Philippines propaganda," as if consistency will diminish the truth of the UN findings.

Next to denial is another favorite government tool: misdirection. In his column "Reflections from the Mirror," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez claims: "It is sad to note that our own media are themselves providing antigovernment ammunition to foreigners and painting a bleak picture contrary to the true state of affairs here. It appears that our media enjoy putting the country down."

It appears as if the good secretary expects the Philippine media to play lapdog to GMA—which I do not understand, as he seems to fulfill that duty brilliantly himself. As to the country's "true state of affairs," it is a vision that only the enlightened can see. I certainly cannot. According to the President, we apparently live in a country that is an "economic wonder" and is the "focus of the world" because of the way "we are making democracy work and keeping the threat of terror at bay." I'm not surprised then that the world's eyes are on us—we are a stunning example of how democracy can be twisted to work for one woman.

"On her part," says Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, "the President has taken decisive action ... to move the nation forward and stop these killings once and for all."

What happened—once and for all? The government created Task Force Usig, a body that has attributed most of its solved cases to the NPA, yet no real serious investigations were undertaken by the police, like in the assassination of peasant leaders Nestor Arinque in Bohol, and Ceasar Quimco and Allan Villacensio in Cebu. It created the Melo Commission, a body that violated Amnesty International's every rule of conducting human rights investigations. It appointed special investigators and created special courts to try these cases in order to hasten the dispensation of justice; and yet, the Cadapan-Empeño case, one of the most high-profile and strongly argued cases, is still pending resolution after nearly a year of failed court dates and missing military witnesses. Prosecutors dragged their feet in the attempted murder case of human rights advocate Emmylou Cruz, resulting in the escape of some of the suspects. The case of Benjaline Hernandez, who was shot point-blank by paramilitary forces while investigating a massacre in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato, has been pending for five years. Perpetrators have posted bail, in spite of strong evidence, including testimonies of witnesses and survivors—and a CHR finding that disproves the military's denial.

I interviewed Sen. Joker Arroyo, whose defense of human rights is his platform for reelection. I ask why he has been silent, and why he chooses to still run with Team Unity whose figurehead is GMA. He is offended. He was the first to speak against Palparan, he says, and the one who continually rails against human rights violations.

There are other issues, there are other issues, he repeats, labor and finance and education, and a whole host of other matters. Why must his performance on the political killings be a standard by which I should judge him? He tells me, at the end of his rant, that he expects me to be objective. I tell him I cannot be, as I am not a reporter, I'm a columnist with my own biases. And he is angry, and he walks out and tells me to do what I want.

And here I will tell you why I ask that question, why I believe that condemning political killings is the highest priority. I agree that there are other issues. I agree that labor and the economy and a thousand other matters must be considered. I believe, however, that this issue is at the forefront; and that condemning is far different from acting; and that men like Joker Arroyo, by virtue of both their records and their claims, cannot afford to be neutral in their actions, if not their words.

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel says that during the massacre of the Jews, "the world did know [what was happening] and remained silent."

"We must take sides," he says. "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must—at that moment—become the center of the universe."

Joker Arroyo urged the administration to ignore the US Senate inquiry that began last week in Washington, because "they have no business looking into it." Today, there are two girls who have been missing for over a year allegedly because of a military kidnapping. Today, there are children without fathers, families who hide in refugee centers; and journalists who write knowing every word is a warrant against them.

The world is not silent. We have no right to be.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Taking God's gift of life

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO/PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Human rights violations against Church people

Type of violation	United Christ in the Philippines	Iglesia Filipina Independiente	United Methodist Church	Catholic Church	Other churches	Total
Extrajudicial killing	15	2	3	3	2	25
Frustrated murder	2	2	-	-	-	4
Torture leading to suicide	-	-	2	-	-	2
Received threats	-	3	-	1	-	4
Total	**17**	**7**	**5**	**4**	**2**	**35**

SOURCE: PROMOTION OF CHURCH PEOPLE'S RESPONSE AND KARAPATAN

*(**Editor's Note:** The cases of extrajudicial killing, torture and illegal detention of church people featured here are from the "Let the Stones Cry Out: An Ecumenical Report on Human Rights in the Philippines and a Call to Action," which the National Council of Churches in the Philippines released on March 15.*

The NCCP represents some 13 million people belonging to mainly Protestant churches.

The report was presented to the US Senate foreign relations committee that conducted hearings on the extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. More than 830 activists have been summarily executed since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001, according to a human rights group.

*Twenty-five church people—10 clergy, 6 workers of church-based programs, 7 members of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and 2 members of the United Methodist Church—have fallen victim to extrajudicial killings. **(See table.)***

The NCCP says the report is an expression of the churches' decision to join the people in calling attention to the senselessness of the killings and in "let [ting] the stones cry out" [cf. Habakkuk 2:11] for justice and for peace to reign.)

• Alberto B. Ramento

Former Supreme Bishop
Philippine Independent Church

ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT church people killed was Bishop Alberto B. Ramento, the former Obispo Maximo (Supreme Bishop) of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI), or the Philippine Independent Church. Unlike the other murders in which the victims were shot, Bishop Ramento was stabbed several times inside his rectory on Oct. 3, 2006 in Tarlac City. Police said it was a case of robbery with homicide, but the bishop's family, the IFI and a number of organizations, including the NCCP, have called for an independent investigation citing the bishop's social involvement as a possible motive for his murder. Bishop Ramento was an active supporter of the striking workers of Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) in Tarlac and an outspoken peace and human rights advocate.

Moreover, according to his eldest son, Alberto Ramento II, the bishop had told him about receiving death threats through text messages. At one point, the bishop was quoted as saying:

I know they (the military) are going to kill me next. But never will I abandon my duty to God and my ministry to the people.

Alberto II further relates:

My father had been receiving death threats for a long time especially after the incident in Hacienda Luisita in 2004, and after the death of Fr. William Tadena of the IFI in April 2005… He told me that he had been receiving different kinds of text messages that were threatening like: "Don't get involved in HL (Hacienda Luisita), you will be next." And "After Fr. Tadena, you will be next." And "You are too much of a meddler, you will be next."

He confided in me that he suspected that the military was behind the threats … that he noticed different people tailing him and who were often in front of the church to observe him … and that "After the president (Macapagal-Arroyo) declared an all-out war [on New People's Army (NPA) rebels], I began to notice unfamiliar cars suspiciously circling the vicinity."

His other son, Alberto III, adds:

It was also odd that there were no street children sleeping in front of the church on the day my father was killed. The street children often slept in front of the church. They were close to my father because he had a feeding program for them. I tried to talk to them during my father's wake but I noticed that they were evasive.

• Isaias Sta. Rosa

Pastor, United Methodist Church

PASTOR STA. ROSA WAS A MEMBER of the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Legazpi City. A freelance writer, he was also a project consultant for nongovernment organizations and the executive director of the Farmers' Assistance for Rural Management Education and Rehabilitation Inc.

A fact-finding mission organized by the UMC on Aug. 3, 2006 found that Pastor Sta. Rosa was abducted and murdered in Barangay Malobago in Daraga, Albay by armed men wearing bonnets. His body was recovered at a nearby creek along with a dead soldier. Witnesses identified the soldier as part of the group that abducted the pastor.

The pastor's youngest brother, Jonathan, has this account on the killing:

I was watching the news on TV by myself when Ray Sun (my brother) arrived …When he was taking off his shoes I turned and saw a bonnet-wearing man barged into the house. The man aimed a gun at Ray Sun and ordered him to lie face down. After which, he aimed the gun at me. There were two or three of them who entered our hut.

They were wearing bonnets and their eyes and mouths were visible.

They were all wearing black long sleeves, fatigue pants and combat shoes. One of them who was giving the orders was also wearing a bonnet but his upper garment was maroon that had sleeves folded like a polo shirt, black short pants and a pair of rubber shoes.

All of them were carrying short firearms.

They were insisting that we are members of the NPA and they searched the whole house. They took the tools for Ray Sun's motorcycle. They also made us take our shirts off so that they can ascertain that we (carried) no guns…

We were led outside the house to an unlit area and there, they forced us to admit that we are NPAs and they kept asking for "Ver." When I accidentally gazed upward, they hit me near my eyebrow with the butt of a gun.

The person in maroon and black short pants ordered one of his companions, "Take one of them and make him knock at the door."

There was nothing else I could do but to follow their orders. While I was knocking at the pastor's door, the armed men wearing bonnets positioned themselves near the shrubbery next to the house's gate.

The pastor's wife answered the door and the armed men barged into the house after hearing Pastor Sta. Rosa's voice. Everyone, including the children, was ordered to lie on their stomachs. The armed men bound the pastor's hands and took him to a room. Jonathan, the pastor's wife and the children were then herded into another room.

We could hear them beating up my brother … After a few minutes they took Ray Sun inside the house and I saw them taking the pastor outside. When no one was left guarding us, we went outside the house and shouted for help.

In an instant, we heard gunshots. Then three more gunshots followed.

With Ray Sun, a few of our neighbors and some town officials, we went to the place where the sounds came.

We saw the pastor beside the stream not too far from his house. He was already dead, bloodied, lying face down. His head was tilted and his body bore gunshot wounds. About five meters from the stream, we saw another dead person. He was wearing a bonnet, black short pants and black pair of rubber shoes. We saw his body on top of a shallow well. We saw a .45 caliber pistol facing him.

The other body was identified as that of Pfc. Lordger Pastrana. He had with him a Philippine Army identification card that was valid until Dec. 9, 2008, and a mission order issued by the 9th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army, based in Camp Weene Martillana in Pili, Camarines Sur. The mission order dated July 11, 2006 was to expire on Sept. 30, 2006 and was signed by Maj. Ernest Marc Rosal.

Issuing its preliminary investigation report on Aug. 24, 2006, the regional office of the Commission on Human Rights, said:

It is evident that there is legal ground to prosecute the Army soldiers in the company of Cpl. Lordger Pastrana for murder as this case would not [indicate] robbery with homicide, but one of murder in view of the mission order found in Pastrana's possession and the prior incident of assault upon the household of Sta. Rosa's neighbor, Alwin Mirabuna. These armed suspects inquired about the whereabouts of Isaias Sta. Rosa, a person (who was the) possible subject of the secret mission.

Since the identity of the suspects cannot be ascertained, it is recommended that the commanding officer in the above-cited mission order be legally made answerable under the principle of command responsibility governing military conduct.

The Philippine Army has denied investigators access to records, such as the names of members of Pastrana's unit. Moreover, the military declared that Pastrana was on "absence without leave."

The police described the killing as a simple case of robbery with homicide.

• Andy Pawican

Pastor
United Church of Christ in the Philippines

HE WAS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVE IN his community, Barangay Fatima, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, especially in addressing the concerns of his church members.

Testimonies from witnesses gathered by a UCCP fact-finding team aver that Pastor Pawican was taken and shot by soldiers from the Army's 48th IB Delta Company on May 21, 2006. The story of his murder is narrated by his father-in-law, Blacio Binlingan:

Surrounding our home was a large number of military men. I noticed that our house was in disarray. My wife told me that the military ransacked our things and took the P500 I gave her. They also took the cough medicines for the children … The military wore uniforms and were from the 48th infantry battalion.

My daughter, Dominga, was at home when I arrived. She was worried because her husband, Pastor Andy Pawican, had not yet arrived. She mentioned that, as they were going home from church after Pastor Andy held a church service, the military went up to them and said that they wanted to speak with Pastor Andy. Because Pastor Andy had not broken any law and they were told that it would only take a while, she went home ahead. Pastor Andy was left with the military with their eight-month child.

At around three in the afternoon, we heard gunshots some 100 meters away from our house, (from) where Pastor Andy was left to talk with the military. We wondered who the military shot because we did not see any of their enemies.

A few moments later, military men arrived, shouting, "The one carrying a child was shot." When my son, Roger, heard what the military had said, he exclaimed, "That's my brother-in-law." We tried to go to Pastor Andy but the military prevented us…

My wife pleaded with the military to bring the eight-month-old child of Pastor Andy … A few moments later, they brought the eight-month-old child of Pastor Andy to our house with the baby's clothes tainted with blood and a gash on the face.

Police version

The local police told the pastor's kin at the police station that Pawican died in an armed encounter in Sitio Lomboy in Barangay Tayabo, San Jose at dawn that same day. The relatives refused to believe the police version, insisting that Pastor Pawican was killed in the afternoon when they heard gunshots not far from their community.

The following day, some of the villagers chanced upon the body of Pastor Pawican being cordoned off by about 60 soldiers led by Lieutenants Ariel Galado and Freddie Lobusta of the Army's 48th IB, 7th Infantry Division. Upon the soldiers' orders, the villagers brought the pastor's body to the town center in Tayabo.

At the town proper, they put the victim's remains onto a military truck. Thereafter, the soldiers ordered Blacio Binlingan, Mempe Ruiz and Marvin Palting to bring the corpse to Funeraria Ilagan in San Jose City. Except for Fidel Palting and Ruel Marcial, the residents were ordered to go home. The remaining two were taken separately to what Marcial later learned was the Sto. Niño Camp of the military in San Jose.

Tortured

Marcial, a farmer from Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya and a UCCP member, testified later that he was interrogated and tortured by the military, which also forced him to admit that he was a member of the NPA. Here is his account of his ordeal:

I was told to lie face down and the soldiers accused me that I was a member of the NPA. They asked me to tell them where I was hiding my gun. They also asked me if Pastor Andy was an NPA commander.

While they were asking questions, they thrust cogon grass into my genitals and poured water into my mouth. They grilled me for almost two hours about things I knew nothing about. Afterward, they handcuffed me and brought me to higher ground of the camp … The soldiers continued to ask me questions and poured water into my mouth, burned my thigh with cigarettes and heated wire and poked my genitals with grass.

They cut my hair with a big and long knife. They kicked me, punched me in the stomach and slapped my face. When my face was swollen, they put salt on it. The soldiers also peeled off my scalp until it bled and poked a gun at my head to make me confess that I was a member of the NPA. They also peeled off three of my toenails. They wanted me to be their decoy and lead them to NPA camps.

While I was under torture, I could hear the shouts of Fidel (Palting) from another part of the camp.

They tied my feet to a tree using a chain that looked like a dog leash. They hit my butt with a big long knife and hit my hands with a bamboo. When I couldn't take it anymore, I said that I was willing to cooperate and show them the camps of the NPA so that they would stop torturing me. Only after I told them that I was willing to cooperate did they stop torturing me. I heard a soldier come in and asked the other soldiers, "Who is responsible for this?" The soldiers who stood guard answered, "The underlings of Palparan."

Marcial never saw Palting inside the camp but he surmised that the latter was inside one of the huts as he saw soldiers guarding and bringing food to the hut. Held and tortured by the military for nearly two months, Marcial managed to escape on July 7, 2006 and friends who found him took him to a sanctuary. Palting, for his part, remained in military custody but was later brought back to his family's house.

Until now, Marcial fears for his life and remains in hiding as do many of Pastor Pawican's church members who have left their village to settle elsewhere.

• Noel Noli Capulong

Former NCCP staff

HE WAS ON HIS WAY HOME AT around 6 p.m. on May 27, 2006, after a meeting with families facing eviction from a contested property, when motorcycle-riding men pumped four bullets into his body in Barangay Parian, Calamba City.

Aside from his active involvement in church-related organizations as a layworker, he was the deputy secretary general of the Bayan Muna party-list in Southern Tagalog and the spokesperson of the Southern Tagalog Environmental Action Movement.

The circumstances surrounding his slaying follows the pattern of many other cases of summary execution. Before he was killed, he was called a "communist" and "enemy of the state" by the military for being an outspoken critic. Doyette, his widow, spoke about her husband at a human rights and peace summit:

Noli gave so much of his time to others. But unfortunately, while he was giving his time to others, he was branded a communist and an enemy of the state. Despite this, he lived out what he believed [in]. He never got tired of initiating programs for our brothers and sisters, especially those living in rural communities.

The victim's elder brother, lawyer Emilio Capulong, also said that the government could not hide the fact that military personnel were believed to be behind the killing of activists. He asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to show her authority and control as commander-in-chief of the police and military by bringing to justice the killers of his brother.

• Jose 'Pepe' Manegdeg III

Lay missionary

AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, Manegdeg, 37, was the coordinator for the Cordillera and Ilocos of the Rural Missionaries of the Philippines. A former coordinator of the Regional Ecumenical Council in the Cordillera Region, he served as a volunteer for the NCCP's Ecology and Environmental Protection Program.

Gunmen pumped 22 bullets into his body as he was waiting for a bus ride to Manila on the national highway in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur at around 10 p.m. on Nov. 28, 2005. Manegdeg had just attended a paralegal training seminar sponsored by the Ilocos Human Rights Alliance-Karapatan at Ursa Major Resort in Apatot, San Esteban and was to meet his wife who would be arriving from Hong Kong.

A tricycle driver, Fenio Caceres Sr., who drove him from the resort to the highway witnessed Manegdeg's killing. He gave the following account to the San Esteban Police:

When we reached the national highway, the passenger got off and told me to wait … There was a bus approaching and I told him to take the ride but he did not because he wanted (to take) the Partas bus. After that, a van approached and made a turnaround in front of my tricycle and then I saw a man go to the waiting shed behind us. He was talking on his cell phone and in an instant I saw him pocket the cell phone and draw his gun. He cocked it and aimed it toward us and… my passenger ran westward … toward Barangay Apatot and the man who fired the gun ran after (him).

In my fear, I started (the engine of) my tricycle and while I was driving off … I heard one gunshot and after that I heard a loud shout and when I was at a distance, about 15 meters (away) I heard again a shot then I saw people hiding in the eastside of the north road of the chapel of the Jehovah's Witness.

According to colleagues, Manegdeg was under surveillance and had received death threats on his cell phone before the killing. It was also reported that the military had tagged him an "NPA supporter."

A newspaper report on Jan. 22, 2007 said that the San Esteban Police had identified a suspect in Manegdeg's murder. A joint affidavit from the policemen investigating the case said an eyewitness had identified Joel Castro from their rouges' gallery as one of the men who gunned down Manegdeg. Castro, a captain of the Philippine Army formerly detailed with the Military Intelligence Company, later issued a counter-affidavit denying any involvement in the shooting.

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DPWH blamed for Cebu lamppost scam

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—AN EXECUTIVE OF ONE OF TWO SUPPLIERS OF controversial lampposts in Cebu blamed the Department of Public Works and Highways for the controversy.

The Office of the Ombudsman Visayas on Friday charged several DPWH officials, Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Arturo Radaza and other local government officials with graft, dishonesty and grave misconduct.

Romy Fuentes, project director of Fabmik Construction and Equipment Co., said the DPWH gave insufficient data to the Visayas Ombudsman, which prompted the antigraft office to conclude that there was overpricing in the transaction.

Fuentes said the report of DPWH was grossly inadequate, which resulted in a wrong perception and conclusion.

Because of this, the Ombudsman came up with an unbalanced report, he said.

"If they (DPWH officials) were only competent enough in handling the case, it would not even reach the conclusion of overpricing," he said.

The DPWH has no knowledge in the electrical industry, so the agency could have asked the Visayan Electric Company or the National Transmission Corp. in arriving at the right cost of the project, Fuentes said.

The DPWH, in its report, just computed the hardware component of the project and not the entire facility, he said.

Fuentes reiterated that the project cost of the entire facility should be determined based on linear meter or circuit kilometer, and not based on the number of lampposts.

"They did not know that the post is just one hardware used to create the system," said Fuentes, who was in Cebu yesterday to get updates on the case. He said the company is willing to give its side on the issue before the Ombudsman.

However, Fuentes refused to comment on the Ombudsman's finding that the winning bidders colluded with those who prepared the program of works and estimates (PWE).

He said Fabmik's top executives had issued a gag order against him for issuing statements without the approval from higher-ups.

Meanwhile, the local officials of the cities of Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu denied any involvement in the alleged irregularities in the controversial lamppost project, which they said was solely a national government project.

Ouano reiterated that the city prepared the PWE to ensure that it gets a "budgetary allocation."

"We wanted to make sure we get a share (of the budget for the preparation of the 12th Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit)," Ouano said.

He also maintained that the DPWH had made changes in the amount and specifications reflected in the PWE prepared by Mandaue City. Ouano admitted, though that the amount reflected in the changed PWE is "almost the same."

But he insisted that the DPWH did not use the PWE submitted by Mandaue City because there were changes made.

Radaza, however, could not be reached for comment but city lawyer Vincent Joseph Lim said the Ombudsman Visayas has the burden of proof.

"They have to prove that. You know alleging collusion is very easy but proving it is another thing," Lim said, in defense of Radaza and the engineering department officials who were included in the criminal and administrative case for the alleged overpricing of lampposts installed in Lapu-Lapu City.

Lim said they have yet to receive an official communication from the Ombudsman although he insisted that Lapu-Lapu City had nothing do with the project.

"That's crazy! They are blaming us for a national government project," Lim said.

He confirmed an earlier statement of Lapu-Lapu City administrator Teodulo Ybañez, who claimed that the city officials signed a PWE prepared by the DPWH.

The fact-finding team of the Ombudsman concluded there was collusion because the amount contained in the bid proposal of the supplier and the PWEs prepared by the two LGUs are the same "to the last centavo."

Ouano also questioned why Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña was not included in the charges when there were lampposts installed in Cebu City.

Acting deputy Ombudsman Virginia Palanca-Santiago on Friday said they did not include Osmeña since Cebu City did not prepare the PWE and had left it to the DPWH.

> 'They are blaming us for a national government project...'

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De Venecia says vice gov is Lakas bet for gov

DAGUPAN CITY—Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. on Friday said Pangasinan Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino has been chosen as the official candidate for governor of the administration party Lakas-CMD in the May 14 elections.

De Venecia, Lakas-CMD president, said Lambino was selected by the arbitration committee "out of equity of loyalty and for being an original" Lakas-CMD member.

"We felt that he should be given the nomination," said De Venecia in a telephone interview.

Lambino has been a Lakas member from the day he was elected mayor of Malasiqui town in 1992 until his term as Pangasinan vice governor this year.

FESTIVALS go on in Pangasinan unaffected by the ongoing political season in one of the country's vote-rich provinces.

RAY ZAMBRANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Lambino's selection ended a bitter rivalry for the party's nomination between him and Dr. Jamie Eloise Agbayani, wife of outgoing Gov. Victor Agbayani.

De Venecia said Dr. Agbayani has been drafted as the gubernatorial candidate of Biskeg na Pangasinan (Strength of Pangasinan), a local political party which has been accredited by the Commission on Elections.

"In effect, it is a technical free zone [in Pangasinan] because three political parties that have coalesced with the administration are fielding gubernatorial candidates," De Venecia said.

Aside from Lakas-CMD and Biskeg, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) is fielding Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr. as candidate for governor.

With this development, the gubernatorial race in the province will be a fight between four candidates because political allies of former Gov. Oscar Orbos had earlier confirmed that Orbos would join the race as an independent.

"I'm happy that I finally got it after the arbitration committee deliberated on it extensively," Lambino said.

Lawyer Virgilio Solis, provincial administrator, said Dr. Agbayani was no longer interested in the Lakas nomination because "it was taking them too long to choose."

"With or without the nomination, Dr. Agbayani will run for governor," said Solis.

De Venecia, the official administration candidate in the fourth congressional district, said Lakas-CMD's official candidate for vice governor is Board Member Dionisio Villar.

The Speaker said the official administration coalition candidates for Pangasinan representatives are: Rep. Arthur Celeste in the first district; Gov. Victor Agbayani, second district; Rachel Arenas, third district; Rep. Mark Cojuangco, fifth district; and Rep. Conrado Estrella III, sixth district.

De Venecia himself is facing a tough fight against Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim for a seat in the House of Representatives.

Lim said several Lakas officials tried to dissuade him from running but that he has made up his mind to challenge De Venecia. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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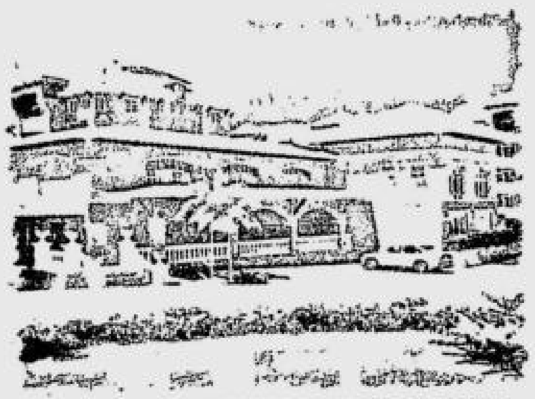
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Welcome Aboard!

FREE EDUCATION comes to the Badjao through this ship called "Tampat Umuh Ma Dilaut" or Floating School, which sailed for the first time in Zamboanga City on March 19. PHOTOS BY JULIE ALIPALA

Floating school brings hope for the Badjao

By Julie S. Alipala
Zamboanga City

THIRTY-TWO-YEAR-old Satria Iskalin could hardly contain her excitement when a black envelop containing school supplies was handed to her.

"*Napakalaking bagay na ito* (This is a very big thing already)," Iskalin said, clutching an envelop intended for her third child, while her youngest, 3-year-old Ottoh, is thrilled playing with crayons spread around the mat.

Her two elder children are now in fifth and second grades at the Baliwasan Central School in Barangay Baliwasan, Zamboanga City.

Farida Aima, 22, and mother of three, felt the same. "*Ngayon lang kami nakatanggap ng ganitong tulong* (It is only now that we got this kind of help)," Aima said.

Iskalin and Aima are Badjao women (sea gypsies). "*Dagat na ang kinamulatan namin, dagat pa rin ang uuwian namin. Pero may pag-asa sa aming mga anak* (We grew up in the sea and it is to the sea where we will go home. But our children have hope)," Iskalin said.

29,000 Badjao

Iskalin and Aima are just two of the 29,000 Badjao people in the city who have been deprived of formal education.

But their dreams may be realized soon, according to Hadji Nasser Usman, chair of the Samah-Badjao Tribal Council. A foreign donor and a university worked together to implement the literacy program for the Badjao folk.

"It's a million thanks to Almighty Allah, a dream come true for people like us," Usman said referring to the collaborative efforts of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) through its Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (Pacap), and the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU).

The floating school dubbed "Tampat Umuh Ma Dilaut" had its inaugural sail in Zamboanga on March 19.

WMSU President Eldigario Gonzales said the Australian government funded 48.5 percent of the total project cost of P2,782,265, while the 51.5 percent came from the local counterpart.

The floating school is more like a shelter carried by two long fishing boats powered by two engines. It can accommodate as much as 38 pupils on board.

"It's very difficult to have the Badjao in the classroom. They are a mobile people. You cannot hold them in a formal setting," Gonzales said.

He hoped that through the project, they could deliver a kind of education that is sensitive to the Badjao culture, Gonzales said.

One of a kind

Usman said the floating school is one of a kind, a "rare project for our people."

Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Tony Hely said the floating school not only teaches literacy to children but "also offers vocational and skills development courses to Badjao parents."

Salmia Alih, a teacher at the floating school, said she accommodates eight children in her pilot class. But she is sure the number will increase when they reach different coastal villages populated by the Badjao.

Alih teaches mathematics, alphabet, colors, shapes, health, sanitation and good manners to Badjao children on weekdays, and handles a functional literacy class for parents on Saturdays.

Usman said educating the young Badjao is already empowering the tribe to become acceptable members of the society.

"They will no longer look down on us again," Usman said in Samah-Badjao dialect.

Access to education

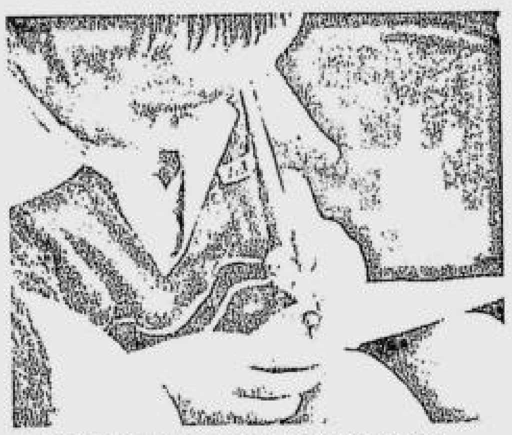
Having access to education makes the Badjao people realize that begging, fishing and mat-making are not the only options available to them, he added.

"We will no longer beg in the streets," he told the Badjao women and their children.

Gonzales said the seeming neglect of indigenous people like the Badjao has its consequence particularly to the city where problems like mendicancy arise.

"We cannot solve mendicancy by just pulling them out. Perhaps through education, little by little, we will be able to do that," he said. He hoped that putting the Badjao in school will make them productive later on.

Usman believes that when the program succeeds, "we will eliminate mendicancy by ourselves and this can only be solved if we, all the Badjao, take the opportunity to educate ourselves."



A BADJAO boy couldn't wait to use the pencil and paper given to him for his class in the Floating School.

BADJAO women and children flock to the floating school excited to begin their schooling.

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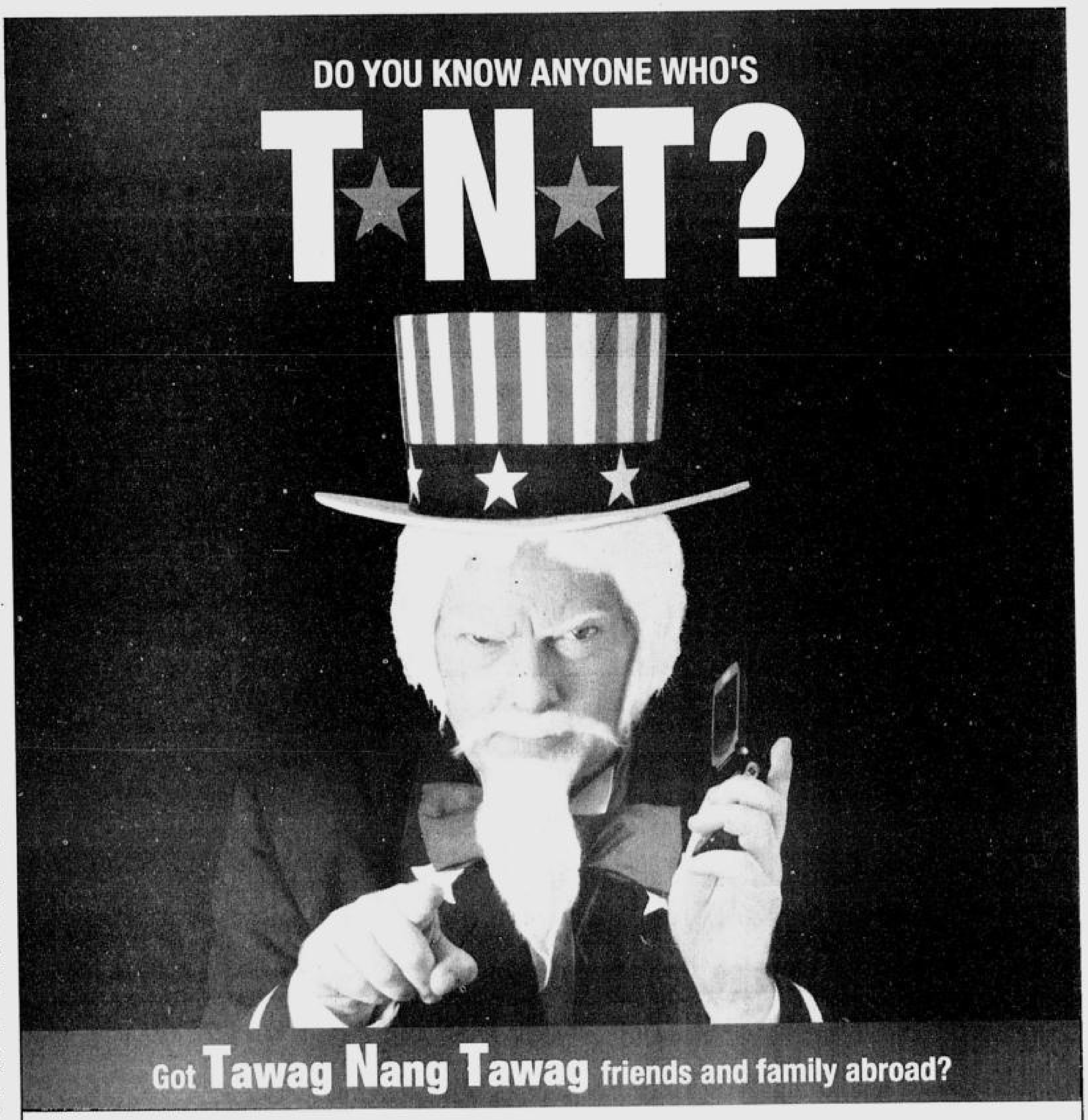
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Petron off the hook in charges over oil spill

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

CHILDREN of Barangay Tando help their parents catch fish at the Guimaras Strait. Fish catch in the province declined following the Petron oil spill.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

ILOILO CITY—THE GUIMARAS Provincial Prosecutor's Office has junked the criminal complaint filed against officials of Petron Corp. and the owner of the sunken tanker Solar I over the worst oil spill in the country's history.

In a 17-page resolution dated March 2, Provincial Prosecutor Luzermindo Calmorin dismissed the complaint "for lack of probable cause."

"In fine, while it appears that the oil spill has indeed caused damage to the affected communities and fisherfolk in the municipality of Nueva Valencia, it does not follow that there is criminal liability involved," said Calmorin in his resolution.

Calmorin dismissed the complaint filed on Sept. 13 by Mayor Diosdado Gonzaga of Nueva Valencia town on behalf of his constituents. The town is the hardest hit by the oil spill among the five municipalities of Guimaras.

The respondents included Petron president Khalid Al-Faddagh, chair and chief executive officer Nicasio Alcantara, vice president for operations Felimon Antiporda and Carlos Tan, health safety and environment officer and company spokesperson.

Clemente Cancio, president of the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of Solar I, which sank 13.3 nautical miles off Guimaras on Aug. 11 last year, was also named respondent.

Tan said the resolution is "a welcome development."

"Nobody wanted the incident to happen and we should not be faulted for this," Tan said in a telephone interview.

Guimaras provincial legal officer Plaridel Nava II could not be reached for comment.

In his complaint, Gonzaga had accused the respondents of violating Republic Act No. 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004), Republic Act No. 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) and Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

He said the oil spill caused massive destruction and damage to the province's rich marine resources and severely affected their tourism industry and economy. He also said fumes coming from the oil sludge brought diseases to residents and polluted communities.

Gonzaga also accused the respondents of being responsible for the unauthorized dumping of contaminated debris in San Antonio village and the alleged spraying of unauthorized chemicals along the shoreline of Barangay Guiwanon.

But in his resolution, Calmorin said the respondents could not be held liable of violating the Clean Air Act because the law applies to "intentional or deliberate acts."

"There is nothing on record, not even an allegation by the complainant, that the respondents intentionally sank the MT Solar I and spilled, leaked, dumped or discharged its bunker fuel cargo," said Calmorin in his resolution.

He said the respondents could also not be made to pay fines and damages because "none of the acts, which would constitute a gross violation of the law, has been alleged or substantiated."

The prosecutor also cleared the respondents of any violations of the Solid Waste Management Act.

He said the law was not applicable to bunker fuel cargo of the sunken tanker. "In fact, it was not intended to be discarded but was shipped precisely to be used as a fuel in Zamboanga. It cannot be therefore, considered as waste or discarded material," Calmorin noted.

He also dismissed the complainant's allegation that Petron personnel dumped contaminated debris in San Antonio village and sprayed chemicals without authority on the shoreline.

He said evidence showed that there was no intention to permanently dump debris in the village.

The resolution said the complainant failed to establish that the materials sprayed by Petron-hired personnel were prohibited and unauthorized.

Mt. Province way of poll campaigning a good model

SABANGAN, MT. PROVINCE—Where in the country could one find candidates from opposing parties gathering and peacefully campaigning together as a group?

This province can be one of those areas and local candidates call it a synchronized campaign.

For the first time, candidates who are running for local positions will hold a common rally as they visit the province's 10 towns during the campaign.

Sabangan Mayor Jupiter Dominguez said the synchronized campaign does not only promote harmonious relationship among candidates but it also reduces expenses.

"All candidates from different parties will at least avoid mudslinging. This will also be advantageous to candidates who do not have money because we will be campaigning, all together in unity," he said.

Dominguez is eyeing the lone congressional seat as an independent candidate.

Reelectionist Gov. Maximo Dalog said they will hold one rally in each town but each candidate will present his or her platform.

"The synchronized campaign will help ease the tension among the candidates. They will be more sober and more focused on presenting the issues to the people. The people will be guided accordingly if the issues are properly ventilated," he said.

He said after 10 days of political rallies, each candidate could conduct his or her own campaign.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Water basins seen answer to supply woes

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER SEN. LOREN Legarda, a candidate of the Genuine Opposition, called for the creation of large-scale water basins using natural elevated landscape as a means to come up with increased supply of potable water.

Legarda, who took part in the legislation of environment protection and conservation bills such as the Clean Air Act and the Solid Waste Management Act when she was senator, made the suggestion on the occasion of the United Nations-mandated World Water Day.

The former senator said she has talked to scientists and other environmentalists on the possible measures the government can take to increase the sources of potable water in the country.

"One such measure is the creation of a large-scale basin using natural landscape in an elevated part of Luzon, say Batangas or Quezon," Legarda said.

"This basin ought to collect a lot of rainwater during our extremely wet monsoon season. Whatever is collected during the rainy season can be utilized during the dry spells," she added.

Legarda said the scheme would not require any power as the reservoir will be in areas with high elevation "thus gravity will do the work of distributing the water by way of pipelines leading to key areas in Luzon."

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ROUNDUP

General gets new post

DATU ODIN SINSUAT, Shariff Kabunsuan—The relief of Maj. Gen. Nemehias Pajarito as commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division had nothing to do with renewed fighting between government forces and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Midsayap, North Cotabato, according to Maj. Arnold Cabangbang, spokesperson of the Eastern Mindanao Command based in Davao City. At least 20 people were killed in the clashes that spilled over to the nearby town of Datu Piang in Maguindanao.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Couple killed in shooting

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A couple was killed when unidentified men fired at their house in the farming village of Lilongan in Carmen, North Cotabato. Senior Supt. Federico Dulay Jr., provincial police chief, said Manuel Osorio and his wife Marina were asleep when they were attacked. Their son Raymund survived, Dulay said. In 2003, Lilongan was stormed by government militia.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Temporary market stalls

BATANGAS CITY—The city government has built temporary stalls for 354 market vendors who were victims of a fire that razed the public market on March 1. City administrator Felipe Baroja said the vendors would pay rent for the stalls, including water and electricity expenses. He said the city lent them P5,000-P200,000 each for capital, payable in three years without interest.

Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Guns seized in Palawan

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police seized high-powered firearms and arrested two men in an early morning raid in Bataraza, Palawan, on Tuesday. Mimaropa police director Chief Supt. Napoleon Cachuela said intelligence agents swooped down on a house in Barangay Kamunungan at around 4 a.m., armed with a search warrant issued by Judge Perfecto Pe of the Puerto Princesa City Regional Trial Court. Seized were Armalite rifles, a .45 cal. pistol and bullets. Cachuela identified those arrested as Hadji Ong Aminulla and Hadji Itam Salih.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cordillera group slams Army

BAGUIO CITY—An official of the Cordillera Peoples Democratic Front assailed the military for accusing communist rebels of burning three school buildings in Mt. Province. Simon "Ka Filiw" Naogsan, CPDF spokesperson, called the accusations "outrageous and preposterous." He said officials of the Tonglayan Elementary School in Natonin town had denied the Northern Luzon Command's claim that New People's Army rebels burned their buildings in January, supposedly after the principal refused to give P300,000 to the rebels. Nolcom spokesperson Maj. Ferdinand Razalan said his office was standing by its report and that it had a witness to prove the claim.

Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Bank exec slain

CABANATUAN CITY—Two armed men shot and killed a bank manager in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, on Tuesday. Police and reports from a local radio station said Danilo Cabiedez, 56, manager of Bangko Luzon in the town was driving his Honda CRV along the Barangay San Isidro Malapit section of the Gapan-Olongapo Road at about 8 a.m. when he was attacked. A woman, identified as Ofelia Bulanan, 45, was hit in the head by a stray bullet and was in critical condition. Reports said Bulanan was standing in front of her store in the area when the attack occurred. Cabiedez died before reaching the hospital in nearby Gapan City.

Anselmo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Militiaman runs amok

BACOLOD CITY—A paramilitary man who ran amok was gunned down after he killed his detachment commander and a civilian in Sitio Pamahawan, Barangay Palampas, San Carlos City, on Wednesday, a police report said. Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit member Henry Daragoza shot Sgt. Jenny Cortez and bystander Bryan Tubilan Egloria with an M-16 rifle.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

LOST IN DIVISORIA: No need for lessons on shopping. Afghan women do what comes naturally to women the world over, whenever given the chance. RYAN LIM

PANGASINAN POLITICS

Lomibao backs out, for unity's sake

FORMER PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police chief Arturo Lomibao is not running for Congress, after all.

Lomibao announced his decision earlier this week to set aside his plans to run as representative of the 4th district of Pangasinan "in the spirit of unity." Had he proceeded with his candidacy, he would have run into a three-cornered fight with Speaker Jose de Venecia, the incumbent, and Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim, himself a former congressman. *(See related story on Page A18.)*

De Venecia is the leader of the ruling Lakas while Lomibao is a recent recruit of Kampi, President Macapagal-Arroyo's party. Both parties are part of the administration coalition.

"It was indeed a difficult decision that I have to make, as there are endless expressions of support," Lomibao said in a statement. "I have come to realize that I should make a personal sacrifice for the sake of genuine unity in my beloved province."

"For the past several weeks that I have been going around consulting my constituents, I have observed that instead of building bridges and relationships, common friends, relatives and community leaders are being torn between me and other political camps," said the retired police general.

Lomibao, who resigned earlier as administrator of the National Irrigation Administration, revealed that his decision to set aside his political plans was in deference to the President's call to preserve administration unity in Pangasinan.

Lomibao expressed the hope that his decision would serve as an example to other political aspirants, especially in Pangasinan, that they too can make a sacrifice for the sake of unity and understanding."

Lomibao said he was grateful for the "unwavering loyalty" of his supporters and allies.

He urged the people of Pangasinan and his supporters to support "the candidate, whom you firmly and honestly believe, can make a difference in your lives, and the lives of generations to come."

Lomibao had his first taste of politics when he was first introduced before the delegates of the Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino) national convention held at the Manila Hotel recently.

Afghan women learn ...

From page A1

in early this month to jump-start a five-year program aimed at uplifting the lot of Afghan women.

"This commission has to start its work and know what is the direction that will lead it toward the elimination of violence against women. What this group is doing [is] learning from the experience of the Philippines," Zohra Rasekh, director of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Office of Human Rights and Women's International Affairs, told the INQUIRER.

Framework

Rasekh said that "rather than [us] going this route alone and starting from scratch," she and her colleagues were looking to the Philippine experience with its "government support, established organizations at the government and civil society levels, setup and plan of activities" to provide them "the framework—what will work, what will not."

The 26 Afghan government officials attended a weeklong seminar on strategic planning organized by the Manila-based Center for Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (Capwip).

A nongovernment organization advocating women's participation in political affairs, Capwip was tapped by the United Nations Fund for Women, among the international groups helping rebuild war-ravaged Afghanistan, to hold workshops for Afghan government officials on how to plan and implement programs concerning women.

Said Jean Llorin, training facilitator and Capwip resource person: "We can share our experiences in terms of laws—the sexual harassment law, rape law, domestic violence law... Our gains can be shared and adopted. They are fascinated with what we have done."

'Women disappeared'

While they compose roughly half of a population of around 30 million, Afghan women are greatly marginalized, robbed of their freedoms by strict regulations imposed by the violent seven-year reign of the Taliban, Rasekh said.

The Taliban, a native militia, rose to power in 1996 when a virtual power vacuum followed a civil war wrought by the fractured mujahideen, US-backed forces activated during the Cold War in the 1970s to oppose the Soviet occupation.

"Women disappeared from the face of Afghanistan," said Rasekh. "The Taliban had a backward belief, this idea of misinterpretation of religion... [It] mistranslated the Koran, that according to Islam, women should not appear in public."

The many "bizarre" and "anti-women" rules of the Taliban included prohibiting women from venturing outdoors without a male chaperone, wearing makeup or high heels, and talking in public.

"All women were [told] to cover head to toe, women's schools were closed, women doctors, nurses and government workers were sent home... There were no women in the public or private sector, in schools, on the streets," she said.

Rasekh said the Taliban reign aggravated the mujahideen's abuse of women, which included abduction and rape.

She said the grim situation, which started in the early 1990s, was a far cry from the status of Afghan women in the early 1900s up to the 1960s, when they participated in government, education, military service and law enforcement.

Historic year

The fall of the Taliban in 2001 generated hope for the repressed women's movement in Afghanistan. The year 2002 was marked by the historic establishment of the Ministry of Women's Affairs following a peace conference in Bonn, Germany.

Then came the formation of the IMC-EVAW, a body composed of officials of the Afghan ministries of women's affairs, justice, labor and social affairs, higher education, interior, health, media and culture, Islamic affairs and foreign affairs, the attorney general's office and the independent human rights commission.

Six years after a window opened for Afghanistan's women to regain their place in society, its leaders turned to the Philippines for guidance.

"It gives everybody a vision, a direction ... because the elimination of violence against women through a commission is something new [in Afghanistan]. It's just the beginning of a women's movement," Rasekh said, adding that the "conservative" and Taliban-like view of women in their country still persisted despite the establishment of a new government.

She said the "cultural similarities" between the Philippines and Afghanistan—the regard for the family as society's basic unit and the existence of a Muslim minority here—were a factor in the Afghan government's decision to learn about the Philippine women's movement.

"We could see how you approach violence against women in a minority group. As a Muslim country, we need to know [the experience of other countries in similar conditions]," said Rasekh of her homeland, where Muslims comprise 99 percent of the population.

"It is better to see what other countries have done so we don't waste resources and time," she said.

2nd phase

Training IMC-EVAW members was the second phase of Capwip's seminar series, which started in the Afghan capital of Kabul last November with a leadership training for that country's legislators and ministry heads.

In time for women's month, Capwip gathered members of IMC-EVAW at the Asian Institute of Management's conference center in Makati City from March 7 to 17 for a start-up on drafts of its mission, vision and plan of action.

"They have a quota system where women have to be elected to their assembly (legislature). And they have many women in position. But the problem is, even if they are there, what's the impact on women? None," said Capwip project officer Lea Joaquin.

"That's what we're trying to look at—what's wrong, what's lacking, and why, despite the presence of women in the assembly, there's no change," Joaquin said in reference to the Afghan assembly where, according to Rasekh, around 25 percent of the 125-member Lower House are women.

The Capwip lectures, held in coordination with the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, gave the Afghan officials a roadmap on how to pursue pro-women legislation through the example of lobbying for the passage and implementation of Philippine laws penalizing the abuse of women, said Joaquin, a lawyer.

"We presented our laws on violence against women and children as a guide... And then we presented the women's struggle here to pass that law, which took almost 10 years. We also emphasized that while we have had two women presidents, it does not necessarily mean that they will carry women's issues," she said, adding:

"But of course we tell them to just copy the good, not the bad, things. We're telling them the mistakes—what didn't work—so they won't do it... And we tell them that although we're making progress here in the Philippines in terms of women's issues, we still have a lot of things to do."

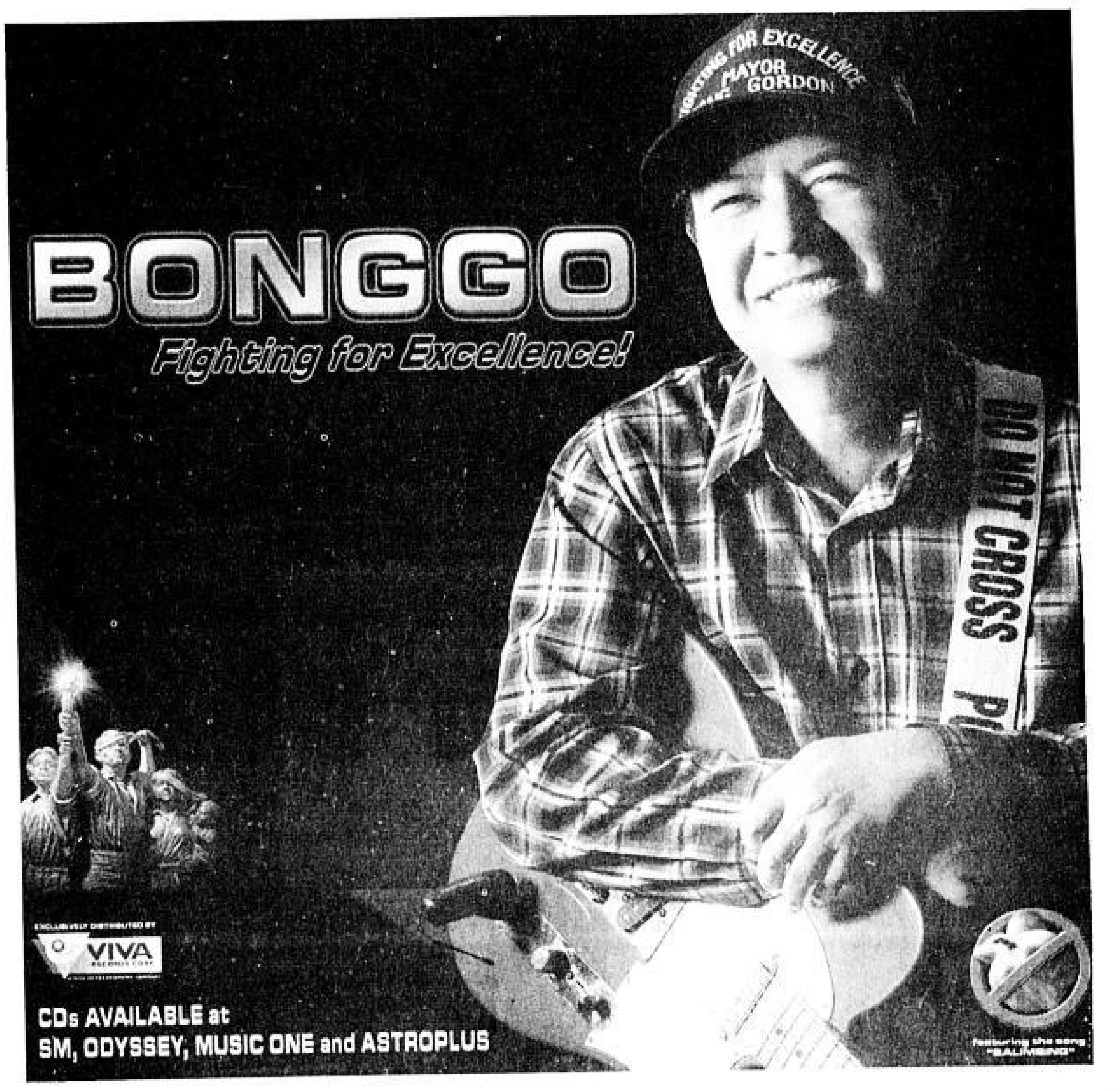
Priceless souvenir

Llorin said that on their return to Afghanistan, the members of IMC-EVAW brought along a priceless souvenir from the Philippines—a draft of their "mission and vision, national plan, and commitments" for women empowerment.

"The contribution of Philippine women's organizations are the experiences, the lessons learned, this whole journey that they have gone through and finished, so we don't have to repeat the mistakes made," Rasekh said.

Llorin said two more batches of Afghan officials, including advocacy leaders and members of the provincial council, were to arrive in Manila within the month for further training in "the implementation of their national action plan" for Afghan women.

"We tell them, 'It's a long struggle. If you're really into it, if you're for the advancement of women in all aspects—economically, politically, physically, mentally and socially—you have to work hard for it. You should not stop at having a plan. You have to make sure that it is implemented," Joaquin said.



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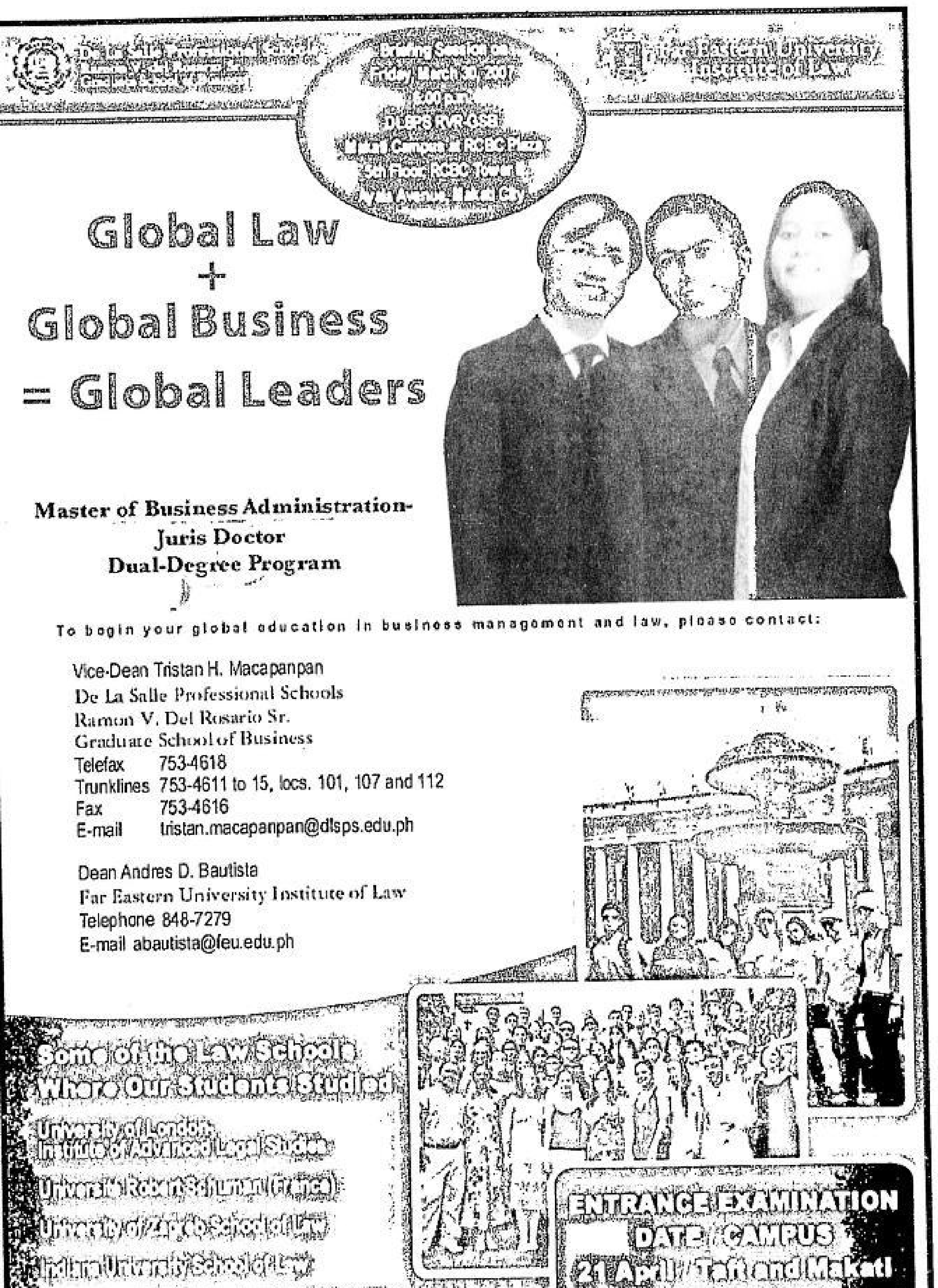

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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
DATE / CAMPUS
21 April / Taft and Makati
28 April / Makati

BLISSFULLY unaware of politics and politicians, the Batak are a people content in their own skin. JERRY E. ESPLANADA

Saving the vanishing tribe

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE INQUIRER FIRST VISITED THE BATAK settlements in Puerto Princesa in early 1997. In a three-part series titled "Lost Tribes," this reporter wrote "deadly diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhea, typhoid fever and leprosy continue to decimate the minority group, many of whom are already weakened by malnutrition."

"In some Batak settlements, food and health problems appear to have reached crisis proportions... The Batak have never been more vulnerable. Most at risk are the children and the elderly. They have little access to medical treatment, relying mainly on forest cures as they await provisions from (what was then Office of Southern Cultural Communities)."

Today, the Batak's main concerns are "still food gathering and making a living from forest resources like wild honey, rattan and almaciga resin," said CTFI head Primo Loreno.

"They top the Batak's list of priorities. Other matters like politics will always be secondary," Loreno said.

During our visit, the indigenous group's activities centered on the "lambay," a 14-day ritual honoring both their honey god and Maguindusa, their supreme being.

Maguindusa "supposedly supplies all the good harvest if the tribal community live according to the norms," explained CTFI youth leader Francis Olegario.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn has expressed confidence "time will come when the Batak will no longer be called a vanishing tribe."

In May 2005, the mayor pushed for what he called "make-more-Batak babies" program. His main goal: "Preventing the Batak from being erased from the pages of history."

A "slow but sure population growth is our target," Hagedorn confided.

Cash gifts, food supplies, vegetable and fruit seeds and other incentives like financing for small livelihood projects await program "topnotchers," whatever that means.

Boosting the Batak's literacy level is another dream of Hagedorn. He has put up school buildings in Mangapin and Cayasan, among other tribal settlements.

Hagedorn said the campaign to save the Batak is still very much "a work in progress."

In the past 10 years, a group of INQUIRER staffers had been conducting mercy missions to this city's Batak communities (in coordination with the city government and just recently with the nongovernment environmental group Tagbalay Foundation Inc. and the EsH Youth Brigade.) Hagedorn is Tagbalay's founding chair.

Last month, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) provided cash for the purchase of medicines and assorted foodstuff, among other supplies, needed in Batak medical missions.

Loren, Kiko ...

From page A1

Palawan's "vanishing tribe."

Their supposedly popular counterparts in the administration's Team Unity are in the same predicament.

"We have heard of the coming elections. But we do not know any of the senatorial candidates. Not a single one of them. They all suffer from zero popularity in forest communities like ours," noted Anacleto Bolontong, chieftain of the Batak tribe in Sitio Tagnaya, Concepcion, one of the hinterland barangays of Puerto Princesa.

Tagnaya Bataks, who live in abject poverty, urged both senatorial and congressional candidates to "reach out to tribal people like the Bataks, not just lowlanders."

"I wonder why they do not reach out to forest communities. We are also Filipinos. They should not take tribal folk for granted," Bolontong told the INQUIRER.

Tagnaya Bataks "have also heard of (President Macapagal-Arroyo). We're told she is the head of government."

But the 59-year-old Bolontong said they "do not know how she looks." "Maybe next time you should bring one of her pictures," he jokingly said.

Main benefactor

"But all of us, including our children, know Edward," Bolontong said. He was referring to Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, whom the tribal head described as their "main benefactor."

The Bataks are also unaware of surveys or groups which conduct them, like the Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia.

"Apparently, such groups have not included tribal people or those living in remote areas in their surveys," observed Concepcion tribal leader Victoriano Patero.

Nine independent and opposition candidates led by Pangilinan topped an SWS survey on senatorial preferences with administration aspirants snagging only three slots in the "Magic 12."

Legarda had previously topped two SWS surveys. She also placed first in similar surveys conducted recently by Pulse Asia and the Center for Issues and Advocacy.

But in Tagnaya, Milagros Dincio, a 36-year-old housewife with six kids, shook her head when asked about Loren and other members of the Genuine Opposition as well as Sen. Joker Arroyo, former presidential chief of staff Mike Defensor and their other teammates.

Tagnaya has a voting population of more or less 50 Batak and Tagbanua natives. Most of them are illiterate. An undisclosed number of Tagalog and Visayan migrants have put up homes in the village.

Aside from Tagnaya, there are four other Batak settlements here: Riandacan in Barangay Maoyon, Cayasan in Barangay Tagabinet, Calacuasan in Barangay Tanabag and Mangapin in Barangay Langogan.

Cleopatra's Needle

The five villages, all highly marginalized communities, sit on the slopes of the 1,593-meter cone-shaped peak Cleopatra's Needle, located more than 80 kilometers northwest of downtown Puerto Princesa.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples or NCIP, an agency attached to the Office of the President, has reported that "the high morbidity and mortality rates among the Batak are bringing them to the brink of extinction."

Last year, there were around 428 Bataks in Puerto Princesa, 56 less than the 1999 count, according to NCIP provincial officer Roldan Parangue.

The City Tribal Foundation Inc. (CTFI), which groups leaders of Puerto Princesa's tribal communities, said the Batak had grown to a little more than 500.

For its part, the National Statistics Office 2000 census placed at 364 the Batak population here.

During the mid-1970s, estimates of the then Presidential Adviser on National Minorities or Panamin placed the then nomadic tribe's population at a little more than 900 persons.

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Talk 'N Text crushes Welcoat 5

By Musong R. Castillo

CABANATUAN CITY—THE CROWD HAD VERY LITTLE to watch by the time the first quarter was over.

Talk 'N Text opened up an 18-point first quarter lead and cruised to a 100-78 demolition of Welcoat last night in a PBA Fiesta Cup road game at the Araullo University gym here.

Left-handed import JJ Sullinger scored 20 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in a short stint as the Phone Pals put the game in the bag by holding the Dragons to 26 first half points on the way to improving to 2-3.

It was the first victory in the last three games for the Phone Pals while the loss was the third straight for the Dragons, who slipped to 1-4 despite getting 33 points from Charles Clark.

Welcoat's only win thus far came against Sta. Lucia, another side in dire straits.

The Phone Pals went on a 19-4 run to end the first period, with Sullinger nailing all three attempts from beyond the arc to take command.

By the end of the first half, the Phone Pals had outscored the Dragons two-to-one, giving Talk 'N Text a comfortable 53-26 spread. And the Phone Pals weren't done just yet.

Sullinger hit another triple and Yancy de Ocampo drained a layup with 9:54 left in the third to help Talk 'N Text erect a 32-point spread, 60-28, the biggest of the night.

Five locals scored in double figures for coach Derrick Pumaren, led by Mac Cardona's 13 and Jay Washington's 12.

Their Welcoat counterparts were unproductive.

After Clark, no Welcoat player had more than seven points, with ace rookie center Jay-R Reyes held to just five points and second import Alex Compton limited to two.

The Phone Pals took that huge halftime spread after hitting 21 of 44 attempts from the field, including six-of-12 from three-point range.

The Dragons, who lost the game in that stretch, were woeful in the first two periods, hitting just 12 of 41 attempts.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT 100—Sullinger 20, Cardona 13, Washington 12, Billones 11, Belano 10, Allado 10, De Ocampo 9, Pablo 7, Fran 3, Carey 3, Aldave 0, Santos 0.

WELCOAT 78—Clark 33, Ybanez 7, Sta. Maria 6, Reyes 5, Lao 5, Lopez 3, Bagulon 3, Gelig 3, Wianwright 3, Felhl 3, Sagad 2, Cabatu 2, Compton 2.

Quarters: 28-10, 53-26, 78-48, 100-78

A league says goodbye to its classy 'kume'

THE PBA IS DEEPLY SADDENED BY THE sudden demise of the late commissioner Jun Bernardino. "Kume Jun B" was the epitome of the professionalism, vision and industry of the PBA, which he nurtured and led through its glory years. The PBA will always remember his record for longevity, his ability to rise above the crisis and his affinity to the PBA public. He was a class act and he will be forever be remembered.

PBA statement

Kings, Aces gun for share of 2nd place

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Colisem*)
4:05 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs. Alaska
6:30 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs. Barangay Ginebra

BARANGAY GINEBRA IS NOT SHOWING signs that it is missing two key players.

Fact is, the Gin Kings are making a run at the top even without Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa, getting all that is needed from an erstwhile backup crew that wants to prove itself.

And tonight, Ginebra shoots for a fourth straight win and a second place tie in the PBA Fiesta Cup when it clashes with winless sister team San Miguel Beer at 6:30 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Johnny Abarrientos is recalling old form, quarterbacking effectively in place of Helterbrand and giving the Kings the fearsome look they've started commanding since the start of the season.

The 1996 MVP while with Alaska is playing almost on the same level of Helterbrand, his 16-point output on Thursday helping the Kings pound out a 101-97 decision of the Coca-Cola Tigers.

San Miguel, meanwhile, is showing all the signs that it is missing national team players Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros and two more key players in Danny Ildefonso and Lordy Tugade, who are out with injuries.

The Beermen have skidded to their fourth straight loss, but showed some measure of intensity, especially on Wednesday when they were handled for the first time by Siot Tanquingcen.

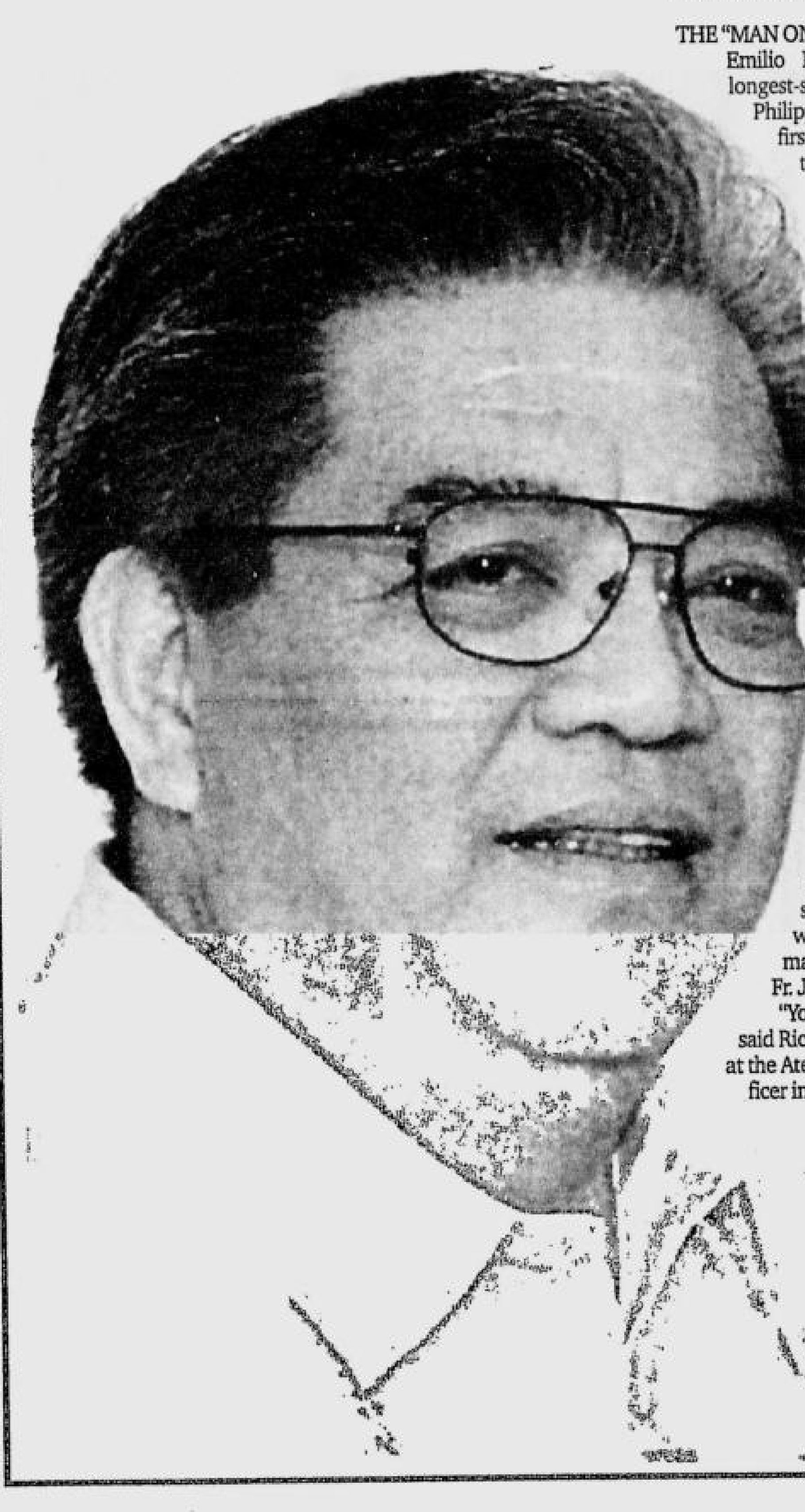
Import Paul McMillan played well enough, but missed two critical free throws in the endgame of a close loss to Purefoods, 79-77.

Alaska also shoots for a share of second place earlier, tangling with Coca-Cola at 4:05 p.m.

The Aces also have a 3-1 card and have the most unselfish import in the lot in Rosell Ellis, a fact which coach Tim Cone thinks will be crucial in Alaska's drive to finally win a championship this decade.

The Tigers have lost two of their last three games after opening up at 2-0. *Musong R. Castillo*

Farewell, Jun B, well-loved PBA commish



By Musong R. Castillo

THE "MAN ON THE BALL" HAS SIGNED OFF. Emilio P. "Ibok" Bernardino Jr., the longest-serving commissioner of the Philippine Basketball Association who first joined the league as an assistant coach then as an on-court commentator, died before dawn yesterday of a heart attack.

He would have turned 60 on Nov. 9.

An alumnus of Ateneo high and University of the Philippines where he was a crack guard in the UAAP in the 1960s, Bernardino was the top PBA honcho until his retirement in 2003, occupying the office of the most influential basketball body in the country for nine years.

He left behind wife Mimi and children Nolan, Stephanie, Kristine and Vera and son-in-law Rishi and daughter-in-law Marga.

"It all came as a shock to us," said only son Nolan.

Bernardino's remains lie at Magallanes chapel 4. The family has requested that friends and sympathizers omit flowers and forward all cash donations to the Kamay ni Hesus Foundation through Fr. Joey Faller.

"You can never find a better friend," said Ricky Palou, Bernardino's schoolmate at the Ateneo who was the PBA's finance officer in his final years in the league.

Bernardino first came to the league in 1979 as assistant coach of Fely Fajardo in the Tefilin squad that saw action for two years.

When the club disbanded, he turned to sportscasting and became famous as a PBA courtside. reporter known as "Man on the Ball" in 1982.

In July that year, he joined the PBA as executive secretary and slowly rose in the rank as executive director, deputy commissioner then finally commissioner at the age of 46.

Also a physical education professor at the International School in Makati, Bernardino, known in the pro league as Jun B, took over as commissioner from Rey Marquez at the end of the 1994 season and was responsible for steering the league to some of its greatest years.

"It hurts to hear such news," said Tommy Manotoc, the deputy commissioner of the PBA when Bernardino was executive director. "He was everything to me when we worked—friend, a commissioner. He is a big loss to the sport."

Bernardino, who hatched the "no-harm-no-foul" rule together with Manotoc, was also in charge when the PBA hit rock-bottom and recovered when he brought in the foreign-raised Filipinos.

Bernardino succumbed after a third heart attack, which happened during the birthday celebration of close friend Moying Martelino Friday night at the Manila Polo Club.

Many believe that Bernardino could still be PBA commissioner had it not been for the first attack that happened in the summer of 2001, when he and his family were on their way to Baguio for a vacation.

That attack was so severe that he had to be airlifted back to Manila for hospitalization. He never went under the knife but led a healthy life since then.

Bernardino returned to work after a year of rest and steered the league back to its lofty standing after the rival Metropolitan Basketball Association folded up. He retired while he was still on top of his game but never ceased in helping the game of basketball.

Shortly after recovering from a second attack that came simultaneously with the Valentine's Day bombing in 2004, Bernardino worked behind the scenes to help form the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas.

He was actually being considered as executive director of the SBP when he died.

Bernardino was also the commissioner of the NCAA last year and had, together with Martelino and old friends, put up the Shakey's V-League volleyball tournament that ran for two years after his PBA retirement.

His last interview was with the INQUIRER just last Wednesday, when he gave his comments on the numbers game entered into by the league.

JULIUS Nwosu puts a body between Beau Belgha and the basket.

Nwosu arrives, scrimmages right away

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHRUGGING OFF JET LAG, THE NEW RECRUIT quickly threw himself into the role of a dominant import.

Julius Nwosu, the Nigerian slotman tapped as reinforcement for Harbour Centre-Philippines, reported for practice yesterday just four hours after flying from halfway around the world.

"I'm glad to be back here in Manila. I'm so excited, I'll do my best to help the Philippines," said the 6-foot-8 former PBA import.

Nwosu arrived from the United States to beef up the young PBL selection set to compete in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Champions Cup in Jakarta from April 9 to 13.

JC Intal, Jason Castro, Jojo Duncil and Marvin Cruz will be the young guns leading the 12-man roster in the country's first international stint after a two-year Fiba (international basketball federation) suspension.

"This is a promising team, the guys have a bright future," said Nwosu, who singled out Intal for his versatility and high-leaping ability.

Flashing imposing moves even at 36, Nwosu looked incapable of putting a bad show and won the praises of the coaching staff on his first day of duty.

"We now have a solid center," said coach Junel Baculi. "It seemed like he had no jet lag, he kept up with the boys during the scrimmages."

Nwosu's new teammates, who are over 10 years his junior, described the former NBA backup center's game as "tough to defend" and even compared his wide, muscular body to "live steel."

"He blocked many shots," assistant team manager Erick Arejola noted after practice. "Our inside operators like Larry (Rodriguez) couldn't get through."

Despite the positive first-day impressions, Nwosu claimed he's not fully in game shape.

"This is a young and athletic team so I need three more days to adjust," said Nwosu, who suited up for the Nigerian national team in the 2006 Fiba World Championship in Japan.

Harbour Centre-Philippines is still looking for another import to partner with Nwosu. The tournament allows each club to bring in two reinforcements.

Co-captains Al Magpayo and Chico Lanete, Jeffrey Chan, Larry Rodriguez, Jonathan Fernandez, Erick Rodriguez and Beau Belga complete the lineup, while listed as reserves are Doug Kramer, Ryan Araña, Patrick Cabahug and Chad Alonzo.

Murakami, Que trail leaders by 5 shots

BINTAN, INDONESIA—CANADIAN veteran Rick Gibson produced a storming finish with two birdies to snatch the third round lead at the inaugural Motorola International Bintan on Saturday.

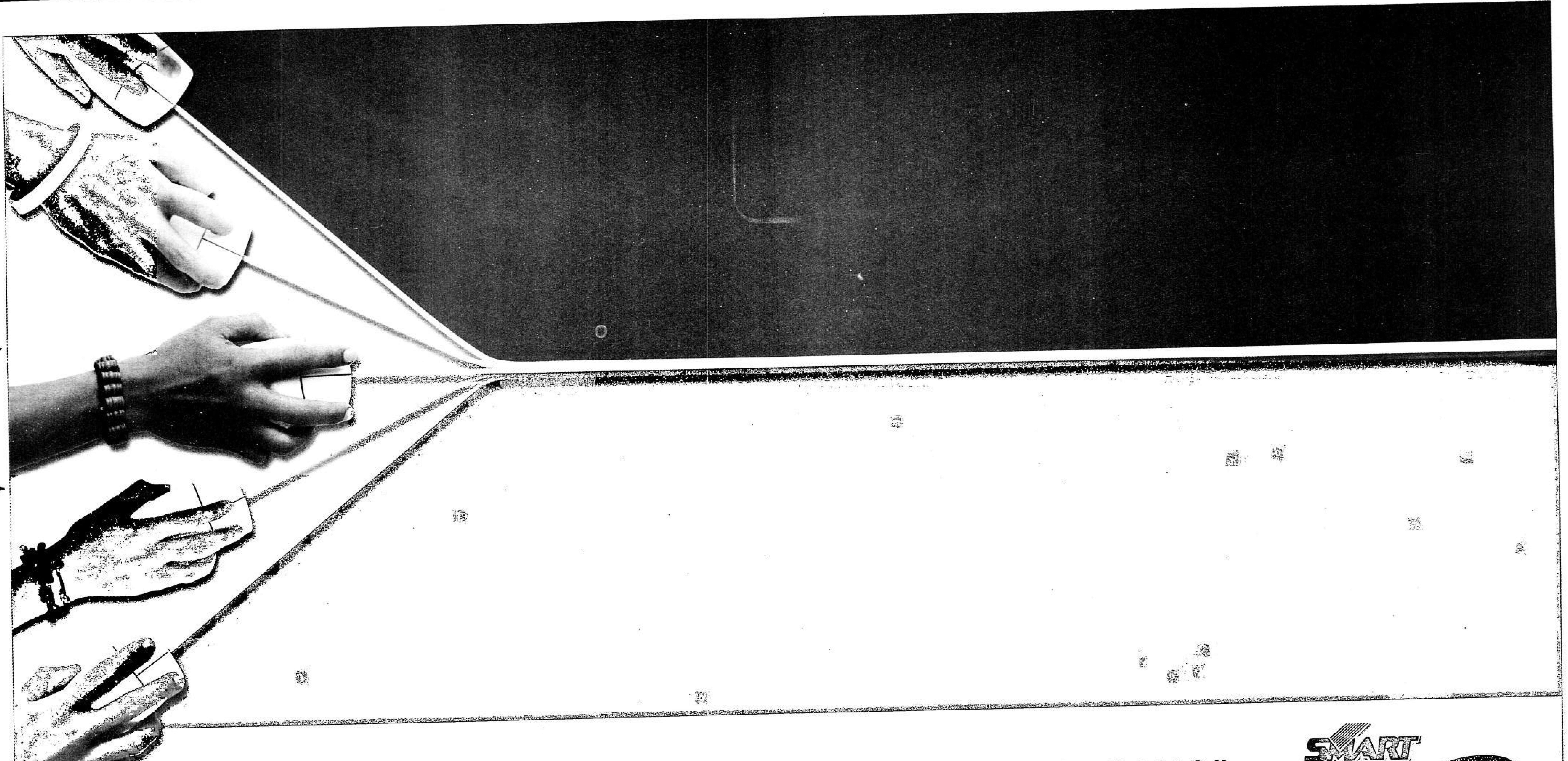
Gibson, 45, battled to a three-under-par 69 on a sun-kissed Ria Bintan Golf Club to top the leaderboard on 10-under-par 206, one shot clear of Korea's Mo Joong-kyung (66) and overnight leader Adam Blyth (72) of Australia in the $350,000 Asian Tour event.

Chinese Taipei's Lu Wen-teh rewrote the course record with a blistering 64 to charge into a share of fourth place at 208 with former Australian Open winner Peter Fowler, compatriot Unho Park, American duo Jason Knutzon and Clay Devers and Korea's Park Jun-won.

Meanwhile, Artemio Murakami fired a 71 to move up to 5-under 211 in a tie with Filipino compatriot Angelo Que, who carded a 73.

Gerard Rosales also shot a 69 and stood at 3-under 213. Juvic Pagunsan was at 1-under 215 after a 72 while Tony Lascuña had a 74 for 217.

Gibson surged ahead of a crowded leaderboard with a glorious finish with birdies on the 17th and 18th holes. *Asian Tour News.*



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A plus

Since 2002, the city government has established a 52-km long bike lane network

ALTHOUGH only four percent of the city's residents are bike users, the city government is optimistic that more will shift to the environment-friendly mode of transport.
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

Marikina City: From shoe capital to bicycle city

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WITH 80 PERCENT OF ITS BIKE LANES PROJECT complete, Marikina City is fast transforming itself into the country's bicycle capital.

The challenge now for Carlota Contreras, the head of the Marikina Bikeways Office, is how to gradually wean residents from their dependence on motorized vehicles. The task is admittedly a tough one because only four percent of the city's population are right now into bicycles.

But Contreras, in an interview with the INQUIRER, said that Marikina residents—who are known for their discipline—are slowly warming up to the idea, perhaps fed up with the monstrous traffic jams and the daily dose of carbon monoxide assaulting their lungs.

"The challenge is making motorists understand that cyclists also have the right to use the road and be given access to direct routes toward their respective destinations," the MBO chief said, pointing out that most jeepney drivers in the city see themselves as Formula One-type racers and end up intimidating cyclists.

Order in the streets

"Our goal is to put order in our city streets. As far as we are concerned, it's a matter of discipline in placing vehicles and pedestrians where they should be," she emphasized.

Since the inauguration of a bike lane on Sumulong Highway in 2002, the three-meter wide bikeway has sprouted networks on the Marikina Riverbanks, weaving through the city's narrow roads and sidewalks.

Contreras said that the city government is encouraging the use of these bikeways by asking establishments to set up bicycle parking racks outside their establishments and by offering incentives to companies which encourage their employees to use bikes in going to and from work.

The city government is also offering interest-free loans to government employees who want to have their own bicycle. Payment is through salary deduction and should the bicycle need maintenance, the city government also offers free repairs.

Incentive package

So far, only Fortune Tobacco Co. has introduced a bicycle use incentive package for its employees. Other establishments in the industrial area have yet to follow suit.

Marikina City is the pilot project site for the Department of Public Works and Highways-initiated nonmotorized component of the Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Project. (MMURTRIP). The program aims to provide alternative transport modes connecting communities to employment centers, business centers, schools and mass transport railway systems.

BICYCLE OWNERSHIP
MARIKINA CITY

BIKEWAYS Office chief Carlota Contreras

MMURTRIP was developed in 1997 by the DPWH Urban Roads Project Office in cooperation with the nongovernment organization, Green Forum.

Then city mayor and now Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando endorsed the proposal and requested for funding from the World Bank.

Contreras pointed out that since the inauguration of the bikeway alongside the Sumulong Highway, the local government has established a bicycle lane network of 52 kilometers which cuts across the city's major thoroughfares.

"We only have 14 kilometers to go for our bikeways project which should be complete by the end of the year," she said.

In the meantime, the MBO is also undertaking a massive information campaign on the use of bicycles as a practical alternative mode of travel. "*Tipid ka na sa pamasahe, nakapag-exercise ka pa*," (Not only do you save on fare, you also get to exercise)," Contreras said.

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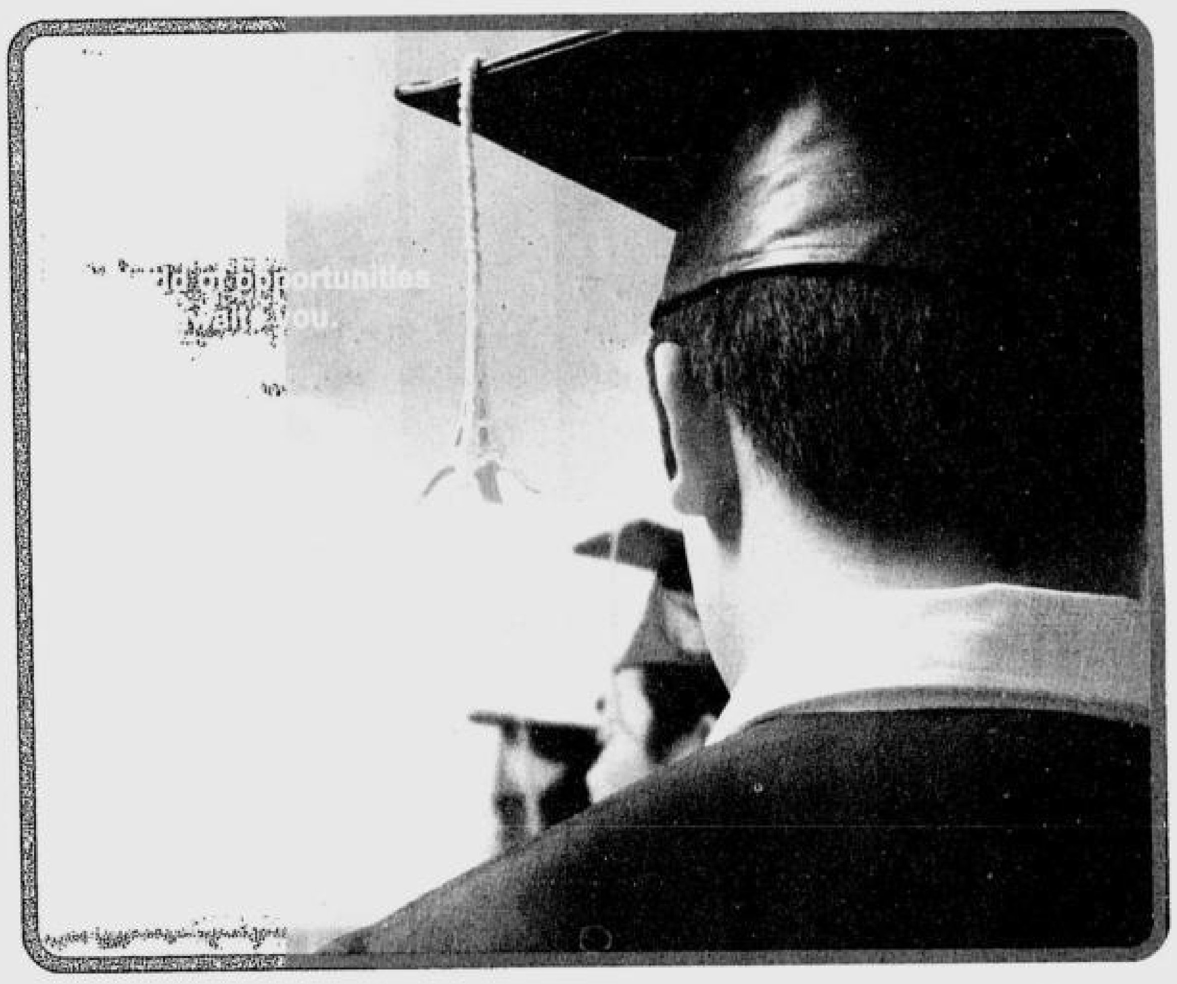
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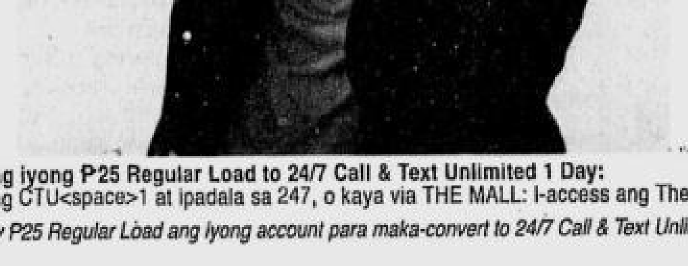

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ALCUAZ

'Kumustahan' going to US

KUMUSTAHAN, the concert tour for OFWs, kicks off in various US cities in May featuring the APO, Heart Evangelista, and Nanette Inventor, organizer Vic Alcuaz said yesterday. The concert tour is cosponsored by One Ayala, TFC, Yehey.com and INQUIRER.

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Maid in HK comes home a magnate

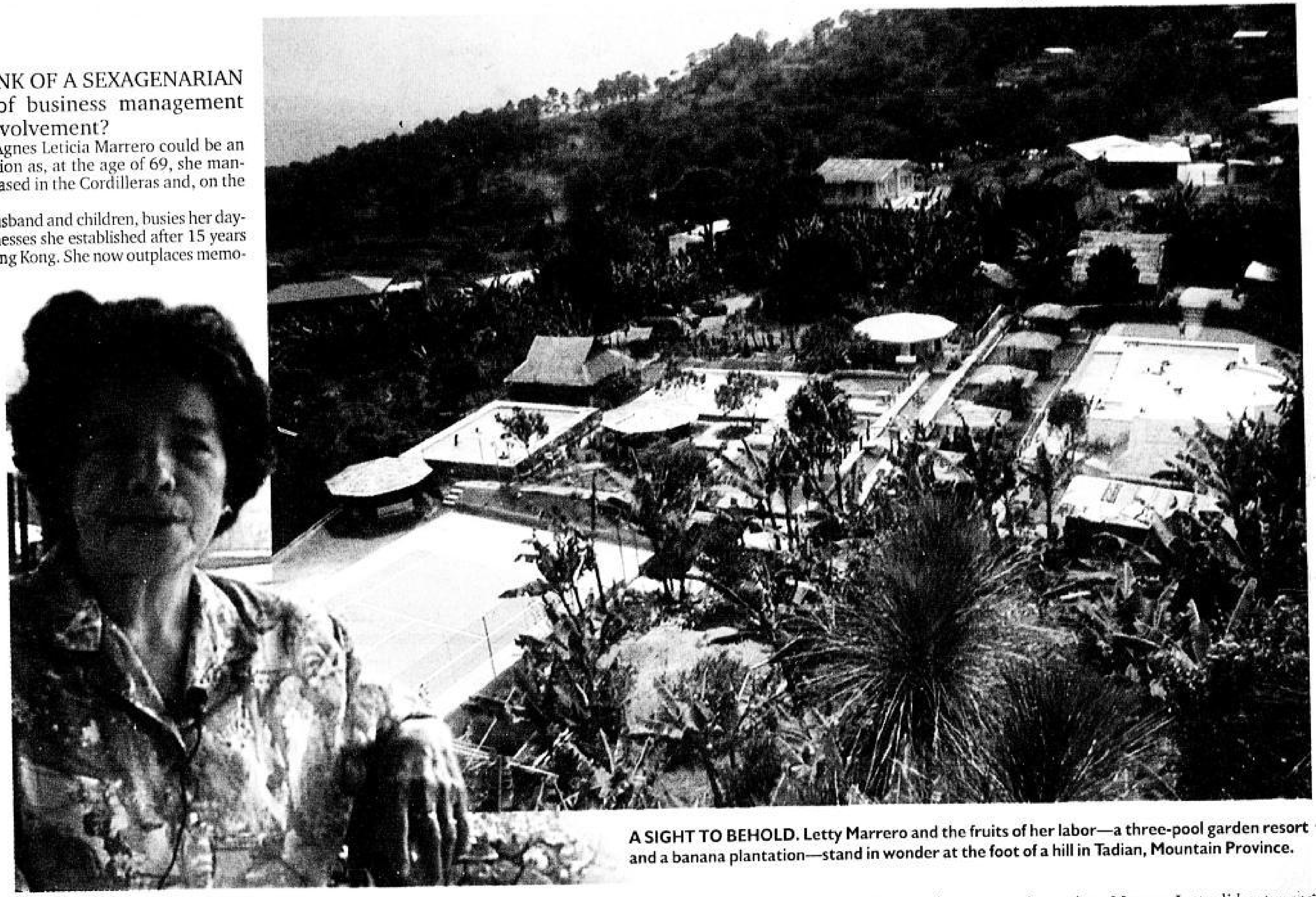
By Karlo Jose R. Pineda
Contributor

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF A SEXAGENARIAN balancing a life of business management and community involvement?

Subjecting her to that question, Agnes Leticia Marrero could be an instant persona of awe and inspiration as, at the age of 69, she manages a throng of family businesses based in the Cordilleras and, on the sidelines, serves her community.

Manang Letty, together with her husband and children, busies her day-to-day life by administering the businesses she established after 15 years of working as a domestic helper in Hong Kong. She now outplaces memories of her cleaning toilets and scrubbing floors with a macramé of good fortune: A dry goods store, a banana plantation, and a three-pool garden resort (with lawn tennis court, playground, convenience store, and picnic cottages).

"When people find out that my husband and I supervise these enterprises, they say it's indeed awesome," she shared. "I tell them it's all hard work and perseverance and faith."



A SIGHT TO BEHOLD. Letty Marrero and the fruits of her labor—a three-pool garden resort and a banana plantation—stand in wonder at the foot of a hill in Tadian, Mountain Province.

Life begins at 45

Manang Letty left the Philippines at 45. For a woman already at the prime of her life, to leave her family behind and pursue overseas work is quite unconventional but she was determined to sustain a living for her family, especially her four teenage children.

"It was a risky decision," she recalled. "I was already 45 then, and working overseas was quite an unlikely option to take."

According to Manang Letty, she took the risk for all her children to realize their dream of finishing their studies. Their family also needed additional income to sustain a life amid hard times.

Nevertheless, she takes pride in claiming that her family did not encounter the difficult problems that usually beset families whose father or mother works abroad. The OFW's absence deterred not her husband, Elpecio, and her children to lead a life as if she were with them.

Staying intact

"We missed each other, yes, but we kept our promise of staying intact regardless of the distance," she said. "After all, what I did was for the benefit of the family."

Aside from the established businesses, the Marreros were able to acquire several real-estate and chattel properties out of the savings from Manang Letty's overseas employment. She confirmed that her present savings allow them better opportunities.

Also, Manang Letty was able to send all her children to decent schools, producing professionals in the family. Her first son, an accountant, is a member of the Association of Provincial Executives while the second, who boasts of a BS Mechanical Engineering degree, is a lessor of a computer shop and a sing-along and billiards hall. Marrero's third child, who worked as a dental assistant in Saudi for five years, is a manager of a dental clinic in La Union as the family's youngest finished two collegiate courses, BS Animal Technology and BS Education, thus his employment as the executive dean of Mt. Province State Polytechnic University. All of her children are now happily married and are leading comfortable lives.

Recently, Manang Letty received an outstanding Overseas Filipino Entrepreneurs award from the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, given by PCE as part of the Go Negosyo Para sa mga OFWs at Balikbayans.

The Go Negosyo Para sa Mga OFWs at Balikbayans is part of the continuing Go Negosyo campaign. Spearheaded by presidential consultant for entrepreneurship and PCE founding trustee Jose Concepcion III, the campaign aims to develop entrepreneurship in the country.

Community worker

Concepcion said of Manang Letty: "Her life manifests inspiration and triumph. Filipinos should learn from her example; keep a positive mindset, take risks, and persevere no matter how pressing times may be."

Ever since, it has been a dream of the spouses Manong Elpecio and Manang Letty to have a family that could contribute to nation and community building. Manong Elpecio had been a mailman all his life. He was promoted postmaster of the municipality a few years back. As for Manang Letty, she was a dressmaker and a *sari-sari* store operator.

According to Manang Letty, her small businesses, which enjoys fair acceptance, helps promote an understanding of entrepreneurship in their community. She added that her businesses resulted in a healthier relation with her townsfolk.

It is great to note that when she was still abroad and up to this time, Manang Letty did not cease involving herself in community projects and involvement.

She proved her dedication to community service as she was given recognition in three different occasions—in 1992, 1997 and 2006—for outstanding contributions, one of which is by meritoriously supporting a school project.

As she continues to further the success of her entrepreneurial venture, she carries with her a bigger cause: To make her hometown a warmer place to live in. Manang Letty said, "If I was able to make a notable difference in my own family, why not so in our society?"

NIELSEN OFW PROFILE

Where and how workers and their families spend their money

By Kate Pedroso
INQUIRER Research

MAJORITY OF FAMILIES SUPPORTED by Overseas Filipino Workers still come from the lower D and E classes, a recent study by a media research firm showed.

The Media Index OFW by Nielsen Media Research, which profiled OFWs and their household beneficiaries and focused on their habits and product consumption, found that one in two OFW families (50.4 percent) belonged to socio-economic classes D and E. Majority (61.1 percent) also had more than one family member working abroad.

Nielsen also found that more OFWs were either children (48.4 percent) or household heads (42.3 percent). Around 7.4 percent of OFWs had also been housewives prior to their deployment abroad. They were usually deployed in the Middle East (40.8 percent) and have been working for one to three years abroad (26.2 percent).

At least 95 percent of OFW remittances, which hit the record-high of $12.8 billion in 2006, were spent on food and groceries, the study also showed.

Plan/Intention of putting up a business

(Total sample of 149 respondents, 18 yrs. and above from sample areas Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Dagupan)

	Top 5 Business OFW / Beneficiary plans to put up	Number of Ticks
1	Sari-Sari Store/ Grocery	16.1
2	Canteen/ Eatery/ Restaurant	8.7
3	Bakeshop/ Bakery/ retail Store	2.7
4	Piggery	2.7
5	Internet Shop/ Cafe	1.3

Note: Out of 149 respondents, 62 plans to have a business

More daughters than sons

Of the OFWs surveyed, 36.2 percent belonged to lower middle class, 8.7 percent to the upper middle class and 4.7 percent to the AB classes. Thirty-eight percent had one income earner abroad; 37.6 percent had two; 14.1 percent had three; and 10.1 percent had four or more family members abroad. The study also found more daughters (32.9 percent) overseas than sons (15.5 percent).

Fifteen percent of OFWs in the survey were seamen. Others were domestic helpers (13 percent), care givers (8 percent), factory workers (7 percent) and nurses (6 percent).

Aside from the Middle East, OFWs were also found in East Asia (26.3 percent), Europe (13.8 percent) and North America (12.5 percent). There are also OFWs in Southeast Asia (2.6 percent), Australia (1.3 percent), Oceania (1.3 percent), Africa (0.7 percent) and South America (0.7 percent).

Remittances

The study also found that the bulk of OFW beneficiaries involved nonworking housewives. Remittances were usually sent once a month via bank transfers.

Aside from food, water and electricity expenses, school tuition, clothes, medicine and hospital bills and home rental, among others, were also priorities in terms of remittance allocation.

Of those who said they also received noncash remittances at times, top remittances received in-kind include food/grocery items (50.3 percent), clothes (47 percent), footwear (38.9 percent), appliances (20.8 percent) and toys (6 percent).

Among respondents, 34.2 percent said they also allocated a portion of their remittances for savings and investments, after setting money aside for their basic needs. Some of the savings and investments OFWs also considered were businesses, insurance, checking and savings accounts and cars.

Cell phones preferred

In terms of communication, mobile phones were the preferred mode for OFW families (83.2 percent), who kept in touch at least twice or thrice a month.

Next to the mobile phone, OFWs also used their landlines and the Internet to communicate with their loved ones. A few (8.1 percent) said they still sent snail mail.

Most of those who used the Internet to keep in touch accessed the Net in Internet cafés or at home.

Plans

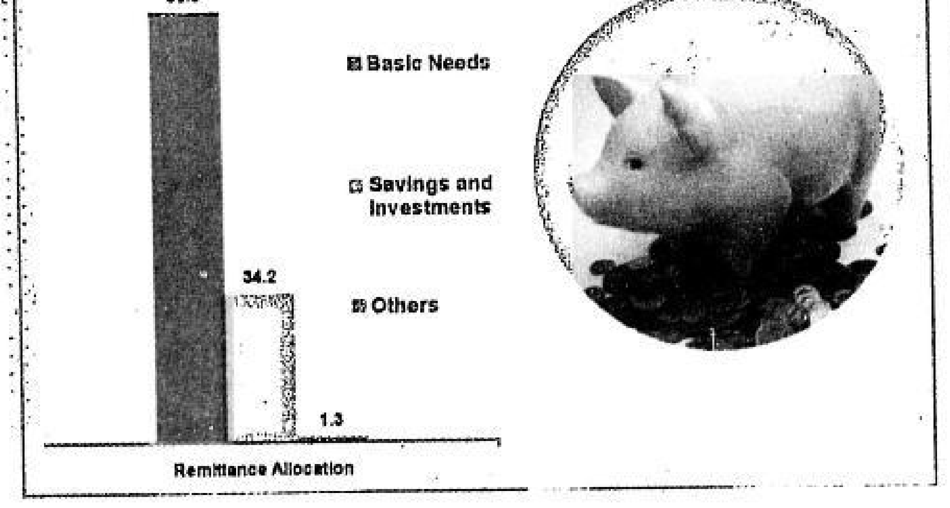
Four in 10 OFWs (41.6 percent) surveyed intend to have a business, the more popular of which were *sari-sari* stores or groceries, canteens/eateries, bakeshops, retail stores, piggeries and Internet shops.

On the other hand, top investment opportunities OFWs would like to look into include house and lots, private property lots, cars, household appliances and educational plans.

The survey included 149 adult respondents who received remittances. It was conducted using door-to-door personal interviews using a structured questionnaire in December 2006 and covered Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Dagupan.

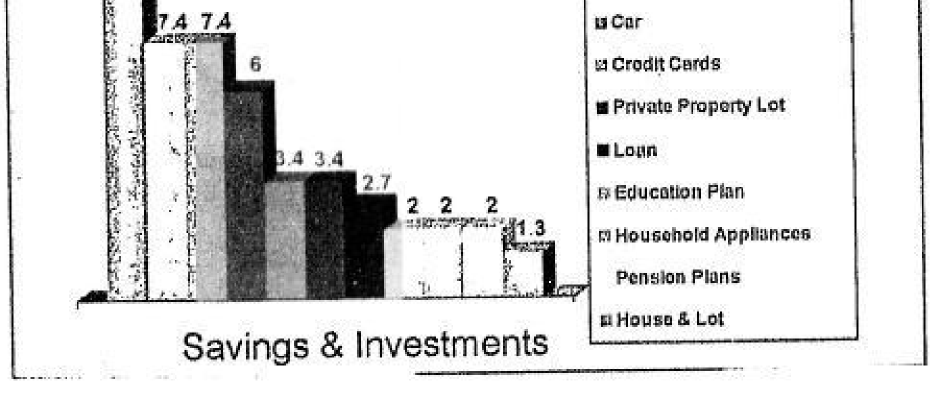
Remittance Allocation

(Total sample of 149 respondents, 18 yrs. and above from sample areas Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Dagupan)



Savings and Investments

(Total sample of 149 respondents, 18 yrs. and above from sample areas Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Dagupan)



US House approves 2008 Iraq troop pullout

WASHINGTON—THE US HOUSE of Representatives on Friday voted to impose a Sept. 1, 2008, deadline for withdrawing all American combat troops from Iraq, prompting a quick veto promise from President George W. Bush.

In a mostly partisan 218-212 vote, House Democrats succeeded in attaching the deadline to legislation spending more than $124 billion in emergency funds, most of it for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this year.

"The American people do not support a war without end and neither should this Congress," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, calling the Iraq war "a grotesque mistake." The narrow margin of the vote was far short of what Democrats would need to override any presidential veto.

Debate now shifts to the Senate, which could vote as early next week on its version of the war-spending bill.

Senate Democrats have crafted slightly different timetables for removing troops from Iraq. Under their plan, which Republican leaders oppose, the Pentagon would begin withdrawing troops no later than four months after enactment of the legislation. The measure sets a "goal," not a requirement, of finishing a withdrawal by March 31, 2008.

Some centrist senators, who could cast the pivotal votes, were still mulling their positions.

The House vote was a significant victory for Pelosi and her fellow Democrats, who took control of Congress in November on a pledge to end the unpopular war in Iraq.

Two years ago, most lawmakers shied away from speaking out against the war and Friday's vote underscored the change.

"One of the things that accounted for this result," said Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank, "is that public opinion has continued to move ... People are very anti-war." Despite polls showing broad dissatisfaction with the war, Bush has increased US troop strength to quell violence in Baghdad. While that appears to have slowed attacks, violence spiked on Friday when a suicide bomber blew himself up, wounding Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Salam al-Zobaie.

Bush, who as commander-in-chief does not want Democratic lawmakers meddling in the war, condemned the House vote.

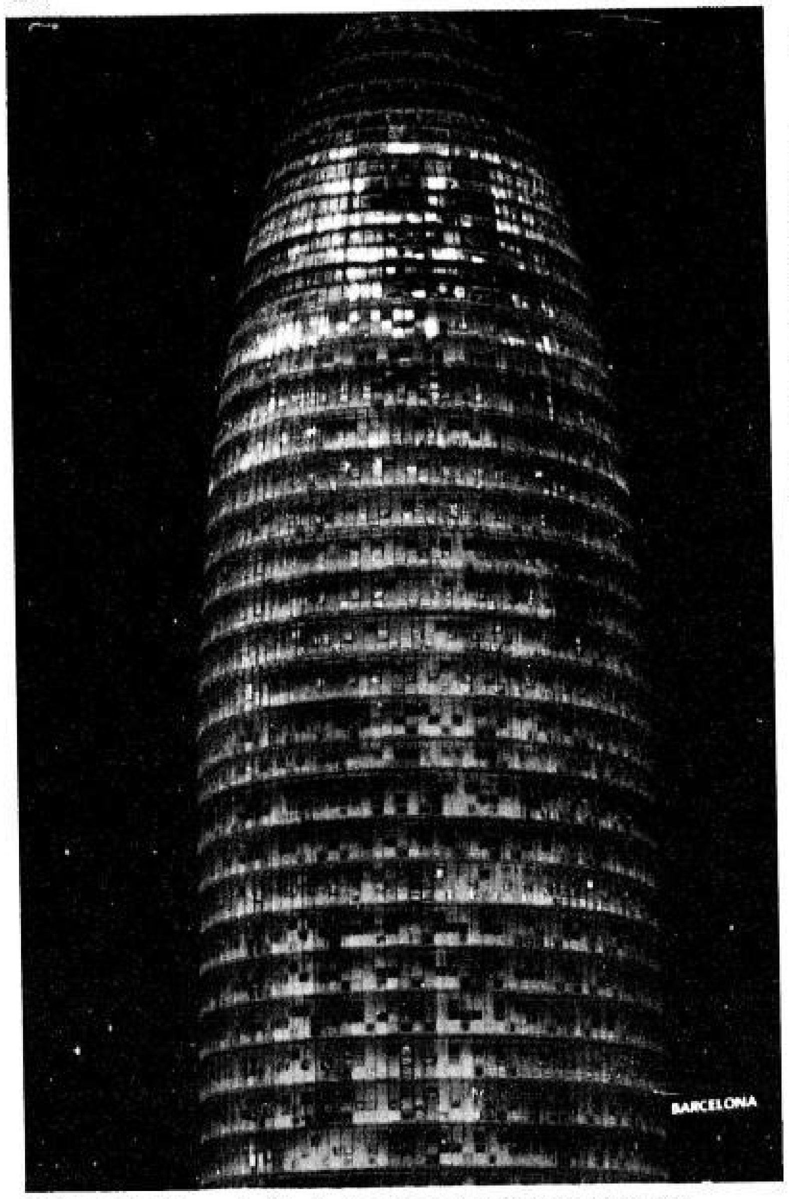
"They set rigid restrictions that would require an army of lawyers to interpret. They set an arbitrary date for withdrawal with no regard for conditions on the ground. And they tacked on billions in pet projects that have nothing to do with winning the war on terror," Bush said.

But House Democrats, geared up for battle with Bush in the final two years of his presidency, disagreed.

Democratic Rep. John Murtha of Pennsylvania, who says the war has sapped military readiness, said, "We're going to make a difference ... We're going to bring those troops home." Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin, the chair of the House Appropriations Committee, said a vote for the bill would mean "that we're going to end the permanent, long-term, dead-end baby-sitting service. That's what we are trying to do." All but two House Republicans voted against the bill, which they say will tie the military's hands and invite failure.

During debate, House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio warned, "We have no choice but to win. If we fail in Iraq, you'll see the rise even further and faster of radical terrorism all around the world." While the House legislation would provide emergency funding for US troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan for the rest of this year, it lays out timetables for withdrawing combat troops in Iraq, linked to that government's progress in securing its country and other benchmarks.

The House vote marked the first time either chamber of Congress moved to impose a mandatory deadline for ending the US combat role in the war Bush launched in early 2003. *Reuters*



THE AGBAR tower is illuminated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, in Barcelona, Spain, March 23. Sunday marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the treaty that created what was then called the European Economic Community. AP

4 generals liable in Afghan 'friendly fire' death

WASHINGTON—A PENTAGON investigation will recommend that nine officers, including up to four generals, be held accountable for missteps in the aftermath of the friendly fire death of Army Ranger Pat Tillman, a former US football star accidentally killed by his comrades in Afghanistan, senior defense officials said Friday.

The Defense Department inspector general will report a range of missteps and inappropriate conduct as the military investigated the death on the battle front in 2004 of a man who quit a multimillion-dollar career to join the Army after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, one defense official said.

The Tillman case caused a huge furor in the United States because the Army told his relatives the soldier had died a hero's death fighting the Taliban enemy. The truth came out only last year.

According to the official, it does not appear that the IG investigation, the fifth inquiry into Tillman's death, found any indication of an orchestrated cover-up. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said it appears that senior military leaders may not have had all the facts or worked hard enough to get the facts of what happened on that day in April 2004.

Many soldiers—those immediately around Tillman at the scene of the shooting, his immediate superiors and high-ranking officers at a command post nearby—knew within minutes or hours that his death was caused by friendly fire. The IG investigation has focused on how high up the chain of command that knowledge went.

Officers from the rank of colonel and up will be blamed in the report, according to one officer who has been informed of the findings. The commander of Tillman's 75th Ranger Regiment was then-Col. James C. Nixon. Last year he was named director of operations at the Center for Special Operations at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, where the US Central Command, in charge of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, is headquartered.

Former NFL star and US soldier Pat Tillman in June 2003 photo.

According to the officials, the report will make no charges or recommend punishments but will recommend the Army look at holding the nine officers accountable.

The Army, which requested the IG review last year, said in a statement released Friday that it "plans to take appropriate actions after receiving the Inspector General's report." The IG is expected to release the report Monday and to speak to Tillman's family about the results of the investigation. *AP*

EU holds birthday party unsure about the future

By Lorne Cook

BERLIN—EUROPEAN UNION leaders were to gather in Berlin Saturday for a weekend of EU-wide 50th anniversary celebrations, plagued by differences over how the bloc should tackle the challenges ahead.

With concert halls and galleries around the continent holding special events, leaders of the EU's three main institutions will unveil Sunday the political centrepiece of the festivities: the "Berlin Declaration." Union in Europe has brought peace, prosperity and unity, a single market, a euro currency that can be spent from Ireland to Greece, and visa-free travel on low-cost airlines to help people do it.

But 50 years after the signing in 1957 of the Treaty of Rome, which laid the foundation for today's EU, the almost half a billion citizens need to be reassured about Europe's future direction.

The declaration—which starts "We the citizens of the European Union"—was prepared behind closed doors by envoys from the 27 member countries, without public consultation, and will not be signed by the leaders themselves.

While the need to win back public confidence has rarely been greater, it is unclear whether this document can help achieve that.

"We need to inspire Europe's citizens with a vision for the next 50 years," European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso told the Italian senate Friday.

Barroso will sign the text along with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, representing the member states as current EU president, and European Parliament President Hans-Gert Poettering.

"We have to convince them that the European Union is the best answer to 21st century challenges like globalization, sustainable growth and competitiveness, political solidarity, energy supply, climate change, and security," he said.

The EU has been suffering through a deep political malaise since mid-2005, when French and Dutch voters rejected a planned constitution, and the member countries do not agree about what parts of it to keep.

The treaty was meant to simplify the way the EU operates as it expands, and establish a longer-term president and a foreign minister. It has been ratified by 18 member states, but all 27 must do so for it to enter force.

Its failure highlighted a deep gulf between the lofty ambitions of the EU's elites and the concerns of citizens worried about their jobs or the way the Union has expanded; especially attempts to bring in mainly-Muslim Turkey.

After a sleepless night for party goers in clubs from Rome to Brussels, the text will be released in Berlin listing Europe's future challenges as the fight against terrorism, poverty and racism, a new energy policy and global warming.

Merkel, Barroso and Poettering—all conservatives—will sign on to a commitment to resolve the constitutional impasse by 2009, when the next European elections will be held.

But even this goal—which could help prove that the EU can get its house in order—has been controversial.

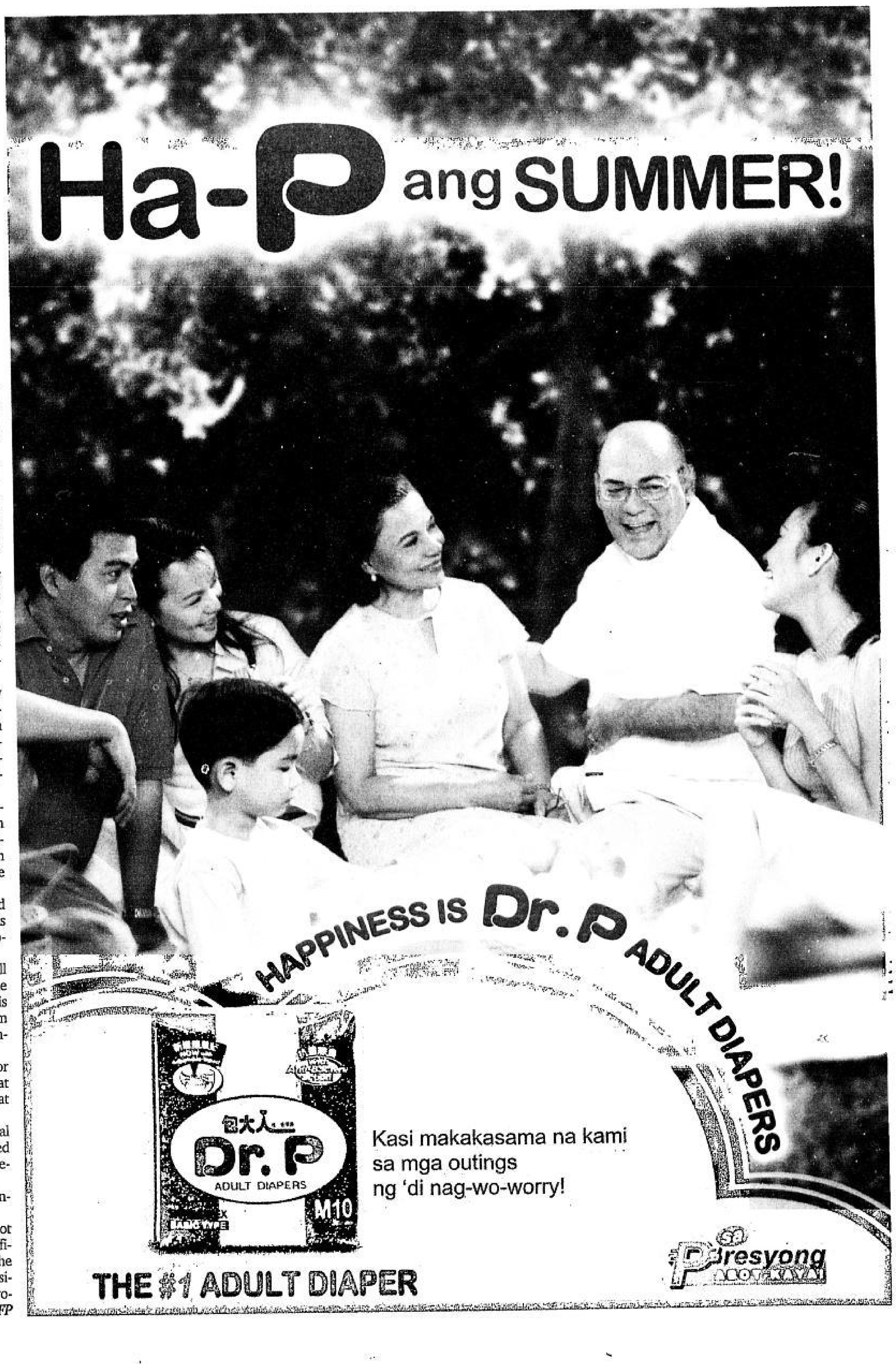
"The fact that the declaration will be signed by the presidency, the commission and the parliament is quite indicative," an official from one member country said, on condition of anonymity.

"You will not see the British or the Polish or the Czechs for that matter signing a declaration to that effect," he said.

A German presidency official suggested that Merkel managed Friday to change the Czech premier's mind.

The other divisive issue—continued EU enlargement—is skirted.

"The term 'enlargement' will not be mentioned," the presidency official said, acknowledging that "the member states have different positions" about how big the rich European club should become. *AFP*



Iran seizes 15 British navy personnel at sea

BASRA—IRANIAN FORCES SEIZED 15 BRITISH SERVICEMEN on Friday in the mouth of the waterway that separates Iran and Iraq, triggering a diplomatic crisis at a time of heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Britain said two boatloads of sailors and marines had searched a cargo ship in Iraqi waters on a UN approved mission when Iranian gunboats encircled and captured them. No shots were fired and the British servicemen were unharmed, officials said.

Iran accused the British of illegally entering its waters.

The incident came as UN Security Council members were putting the final touches to a resolution imposing new sanctions on Iran over its refusal to halt sensitive nuclear work. A vote on the resolution could take place as early as Saturday.

Oil prices rose more than one percent to a three-month high on the news of the Britons' seizure.

Britain summoned Iran's ambassador in London and demanded the servicemen's immediate release.

"We sought a full explanation of what happened and left the Iranian authorities in no doubt that we expect immediate and safe return of our service personnel and boats," foreign minister Margaret Beckett said.

In Tehran, the foreign ministry summoned the British charge d'affaires.

"The Iranian Foreign Ministry has seriously objected following the illegal entry of British naval military forces into our country's waters," state television reported.

It said the Britons were detained by border guards for further investigation.

British officials were wary of drawing the conclusion that the incident was a deliberate provocation by Tehran, which denies Western accusations that its nuclear energy program is a front for developing atomic arms.

"This may well be a misunderstanding. We're certainly treating it as such at the moment. We're looking for the mistake to be corrected," a British government source said.

It mirrored a similar event in 2004 when Iran seized eight British servicemen in the narrow waterway that separates Iran from Iraq and held them for three nights.

Then, as now, the Iranians accused the British of straying into Iranian waters, a charge Britain rejected.

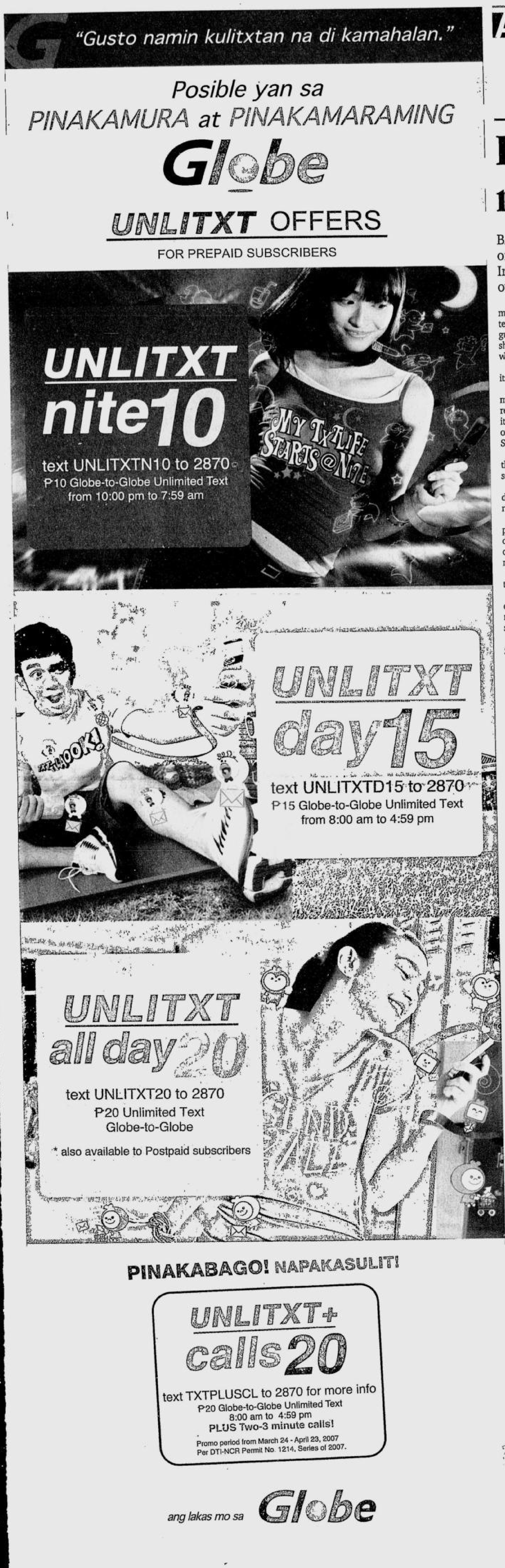
"While there could have been some dispute over the whereabouts of the border that time, we are categorical that this time our people were operating clearly in Iraqi waters," a Ministry of Defense spokesperson said.

He said those held by the Iranians comprised eight Royal Navy sailors and seven marines.

The incident took place a day after Iran launched a week of naval war games along its coast, including the Gulf's northern reaches which give access to the oil output of Iraq, Iran and Kuwait.

"There was no fighting, no engagement of weapons, anything like that, it was entirely peaceful," said Commodore Nick Lambert, commander of the British fleet in the area.

Reuters



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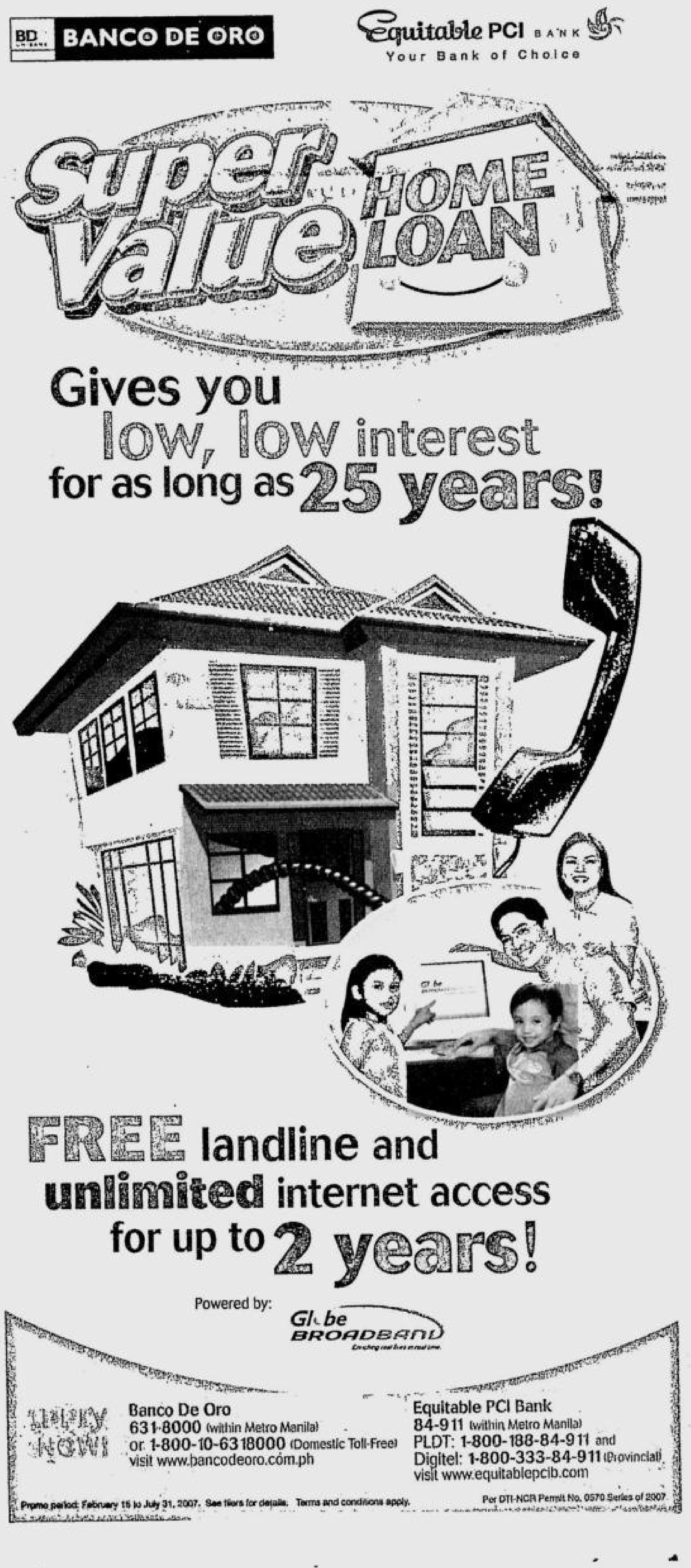

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WHAT'S INSIDE

▪ **Bata, Django** to miss Open /A30

▪ **Kobe jots** down yet another 50 /A32

Pacman: I will fight Marquez

FILIPINO SUPERSTAR MANNY Pacquiao has accepted the World Boxing Council offer to fight new super featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez as mandatory challenger if he survives Jorge Solis on April 14.

Rex "Wakee" Salud, Pacquiao's close friend and adviser, announced yesterday that he had sent Pacquiao's acceptance of the WBC offer in a letter to president Jose Sulaiman, who had earlier asked the Filipino boxing hero to confirm his interest in challenging Marquez.

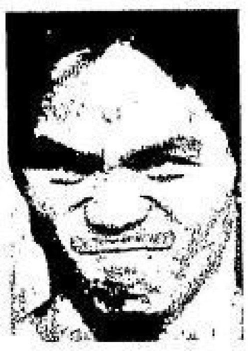
Pacquiao, who is now in Los Angeles preparing for the defense of his WBC International super featherweight title against Solis, had asked Salud to make the confirmation in his behalf.

The rematch with Marquez, who wrested the world title with a unanimous win over fellow Mexican Marco Antonio Barrera last week, may be held late this year or early next year.

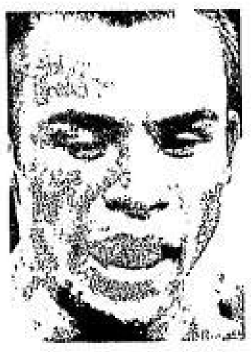
Marquez rallied from three knockdowns in the first round to escape with a draw when he fought Pacquiao for the first time in 2004 while defending his then WBA and IBF featherweight titles.

Solis no-show anew

A rematch was proposed later in the year but it fell through when both camps couldn't agree on the size of the Marquez purse. Pacquiao went on to boost his world class status with two victories in three meetings with Erik Morales while Marquez fell on hard times before he regained his old luster with his recent masterful win over Barrera.



PACQUIAO



MARQUEZ

Meanwhile, Solis once again proved mysterious as he stood up mediamen for the second time yesterday during what had been originally slated as a briefing with the media at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles.

Philboxing.com Los Angeles correspondent Ed De la Vega said Solis was again a no-show despite an earlier announcement by promoter Bob Arum that the Mexican would show up this time.

Solis missed the original press briefing with Pacquiao last Wednesday because he was still applying for his US visa in Guadalajara, Mexico.

De la Vega said Top Rank publicist Ricardo Jimenez had told him Solis would be avilable either next Tuesday or Wednesday.

"We will make an announcement when he will be coming to meet the press," said De la Vega quoting Jimenez.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Laurente retains Paba 'light' title

DENNIS LAURENTE RETAINED HIS Pan Asian Boxing Association (Paba) lightweight crown with a 12th-round technical knockout win over interim champ Hero Katili of Indonesia Friday night at the Elorde Sports Center's Flash Grand Ballroom in Parañaque.

The Filipino champion, who was dominant throughout, sent Katili down with a big left in the final round, prompting the Indonesian corner to ask the referee to stop the bout in 2:02 of the 12th.

Laurente earlier punished Katili with body shots and hard lefts to the face. As the rounds wore on, Laurente seemed to slow down, but he continued to score points by working on Katili's body.

Katili fought with a bloodied nose starting in the second round, and had a huge welt under his right eye starting in the third.

All three judges had Laurente leading by a comfortable margin before the end of the bout.

In the chief support, Philippine featherweight champ Vinvin Rufino retained his crown with a 10th round unanimous technical decision verdict over challenger Victor Man-on.

The night's most applauded fighter, however, was Juan Martin "Bai" Elorde who dominated Leo Albao in his second pro fight. Pederito Laurente also scored a unanimous decision verdict over Joebar Damosmog.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Late Sports /A23

Fiesta Cup game result

Ex-PBA 'kume' passes away

Nwosu joins Harbour practice

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MOTOROLA
LAKAS NG GLOBE

Bata, Django to miss Open

EFREN "BATA" REYES AND FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUStamante will again miss the BSCP National Open Championship, set to start tomorrow at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium to fulfill an earlier international commitment.

They will be leaving at 8:30 tonight for Los Angeles, California, to see action in the LA 9-Ball Open scheduled March 27-April 1.

The country's top pool wizards also passed up the BSCP event won by Alex Pagulayan last year to compete in the inaugural World Cup of Pool in South Wales, England, which they eventually won.

Pagulayan is back to defend the title against a still formidable local field that includes last year's runner-up Gandy Valle, double world champion (9-ball and 8-ball) Ronato Alcano, 2006 World Pool Leaque ruler Dennis Orcollo, Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and Warren Kiamco, fresh from topping the US Bar Table Championship, both in the 9-ball and 8-ball division in Reno, Nevada.

Also rated highly are 2006 All Japan champion Lee Van Corteza, 2006 Asian 9-ball tour Taiwan leg winner Rodolfo Luat, Ramil Gallego, Antonio Lining, Roberto Gomez, Jeffrey de Luna and Carlo Biado.

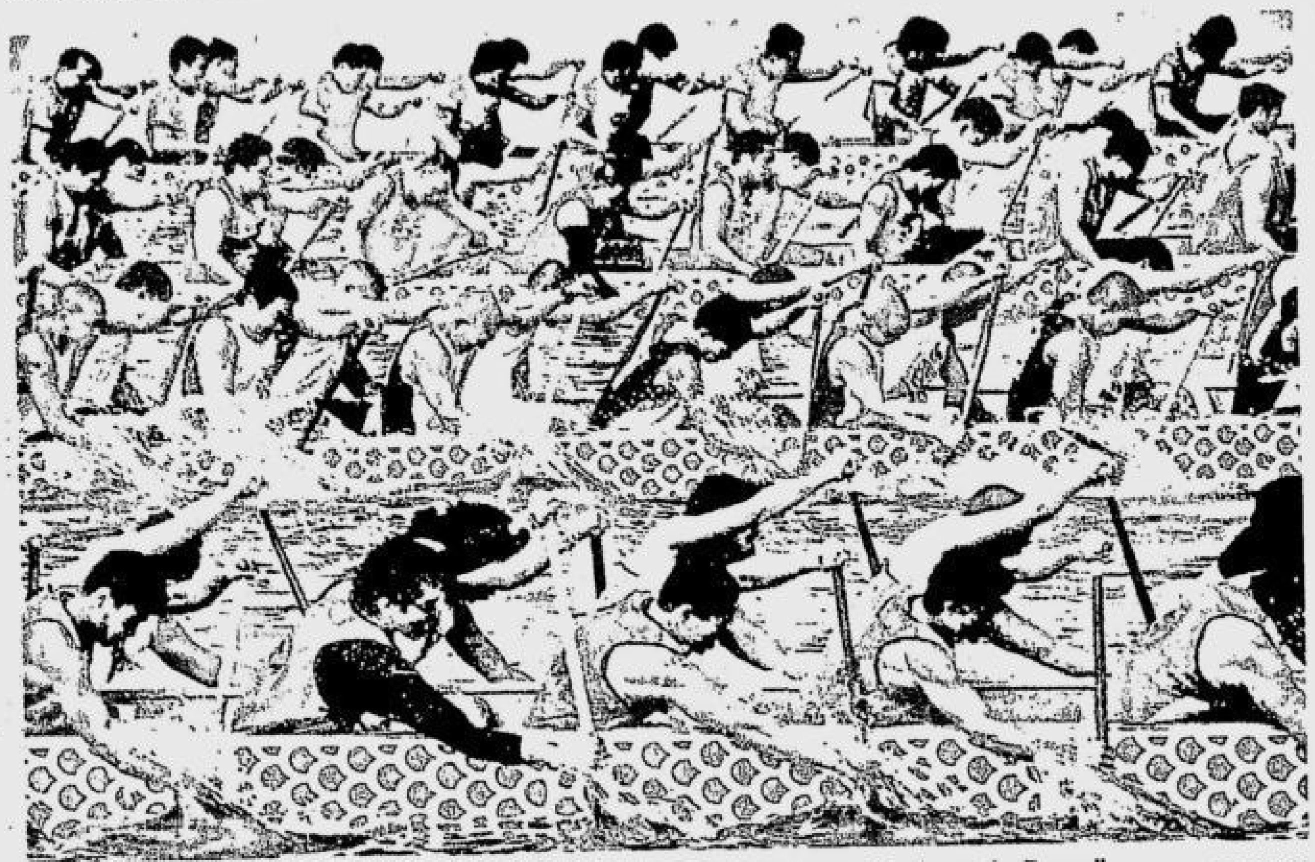
Joining them in the tournament proper are 10 survivors of the two-day qualifying tournament, among them youngsters Johan Chua (15), Emilio Martinez (22), Jomar de Ocampo (19) and John Rebong (21). The other qualifiers are Michael Feliciano (21), Richard Pornelosa (25). Benjie Guevarra (28), and Manolo Tomasas (34).

Taking the slots of Reyes and Bustamante are Ericsson Navarette and Gerard Lubas.

Presented by San Miguel Corporation, the BSCP will be held from 1 to 11 p.m. up to Saturday. A women's championship will also be staged.

The LA Open, which offers $10,000 to the winner, has also attracted five-time world champion Johnny Archer and ex-world titlist Earl Strickland. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

EFREN "BATA" REYES: Prior commitment


SEASPORTS FESTIVAL: Dragon boat rowers in yesterday's Summer Seasports Festiva at the Baywalk. REM ZAMORA

Elorde Annual Awards tonight

TWENTY-ONE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIons, led by boxing great Manny Pacquiao, and 15 national title holders will be feted tonight during the 7th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Boxing Awards and Banquet of Champions at the Elorde Sports Center in Sucat, Parañaque.

The Elorde clan, led by the boxing legend's wife Laura Elorde, will confer the awards along with former President Fidel V. Ramos, the guest of honor and speaker, during the formal rites starting at 7.

Pacquiao, who is in the United States training for his forthcoming bout, will get his sixth straight Boxer of the Year Award.

Boxing Hall of Famer Ismael Laguna of Panama, 64, a former two-time world champion, will be the recipient of the Memorial Trophy, a special award given to a former opponent of Da Flash, in whose honor the annual awards are given. Elorde, junior lightweight champion from 1960-67, is the second Filipino, after Pancho Villa, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame for international boxing.

SPORTSWATCH

Top local bets test classy imports

HOME-BRED VIVERE, NATIVE LAND AND RED STAR RISING TEST THE mettle of nine classy imports as they vie for the PCSO-OTBSAPI Race 1st leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship Race Series today at the Santa Ana Park. The 1,600-meter handicap event sponsored by the PCSO in cooperation with the Off Track Betting Stations Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Racing Club, Inc., kicks off the 5-leg Santa Ana Park Championship Series that culminates with a grand championship showdown come the end of the year.

Heritage Cup derby starts March 27

MEMBERS OF THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) WILL see action in the Heritage Cup 8-cock/bullstag derby set March 27 and 29 at the Araneta Coliseum. The 4-cock eliminations will feature more than 80 fights. Participants may also join the following 4-bullstag elims: April 10, 12, 17, 19 and 24. The championship round sizzles on April 26. The Heritage Cup, with P5 million at stake, is the first undertaking of the newly formed United Gamecock Breeders Associations (UGBA) which has 16 members from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. For details, call 0920-5851940 (Taz Lunasco).

King of the Ring draws 100 entries

CONFIRMED ENTRIES WITH COCKHOUSE RESERVATIONS CONTINUE TO build up, reaching more than 100 as of yesterday in Roligon Mega Cockpit's King of the Ring 5-cock derby slated April 12, 14, 16 and 18. Host Rolly Ligon again adopted the easy five-cock format for the event staking P2 million for a low entry fee of P6,600. Meanwhile, eliminations in the Smalltime Battle of Champions 3-cock derby resumes at 9 a.m. today (one-cock ulutan). For inquiries, contact 851-2275; 833-1638 and 852-9812 (Jona, Shirley or Tiling).

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Happy Again/Kalashnikov (5), Princess Dancer (3), Kawiliwili (2), Playing Cool (6)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Fahrenheit (6), St. Germain (4), Atribida/Nitty Gritty (3), Velentine Dancer (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Hoy Sobra Na (8), Honoree/Pirouette (1), Look of Love (3), Ravishing Rafty (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Venture (7), Spinning Bullet (6), King's Choice/Gen-Gen Spirit (9), Ingay Ingay (1), Classic Royale (5)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Jet Sutter/True Account (1), Sambat (3), Ocean Deep (2), Sutter's Quest (5)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Joint Account (7), BMI baby (3), Step on the Gas (11), Untouchable (4), Bachelor of Arts (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Native Land (4), Vivere (9), Badge of Honour (7), Ziraz (6), Red Star Rising (3)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Condoleeza (8), Hot Stuff (1), Military Might (4), Kai Maki (2)
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Lovely Tara/Fair Urduja (4), Quasimodo (10), Look Who's Playing (8), Magic Dancer (1), First of all (5)
Race 10—(Tri)—Ever Mine Now (4), Fairy Queen (2), Glory and Honour (5)
Race 11—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mas Que Nada (7), Top of D'Line (9), Hok Kee Hok (4), Cool Cielo (5), Graceful Conqueror (3)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Miggy Man (3), Prince Carlo (8), Strong Dancer (4), Kang Kang (6)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Modern Classic (1), Kate Alex (11), Morning Nell (2), Power Dance (10), Fine Offer (5), Carlito's Way (4)

INT'L PAIRS: Lufthansa is flying Team Philippines to the finals of the International Pairs golf tournament in St. Andrews, Scotland, in July. Presenting a mock ticket is Felix Cortez and showing a Callaway square driver is Minette Tirona Corpus after formalizing the agreement for Lufthansa's sponsorship of the RP eliminations. With them are Iya Diza of Outsource PR and Joanne Cortez of Primeline Events Management.

Jungolf Interclub Tuesday

LOCAL JUNGOLFERS PLUNGE TO ACTION in the Jungolf Interclub golf championships kicking off the annual summer circuit which starts on Tuesday at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

There are 20 teams competing in the Interclub wars with nine playing in Division I for players in Class A and Class B, another nine taking part in the Division II for those in Class C and Class D and two in Division III for Class E and Class F.

Taking part in Division I are two teams from Valley, two from Aguinaldo, two from ICSTI, Eagle Ridge, Riviera, and TJGL-Royal Northwoods. Division II action features three TJGL-Northwoods, two Valley squads, two Aguinaldo teams, La Salle and Riviera.

It's a tossup between Valley and Riviera which is fielding reigning world girls 7-8 champion Mia Legaspi in Division III.

Tournament sponsors are Inquirer Golf Monthly, Philippine Airlines, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Callaway, JVC, Time Zone, Federation of Golf Clubs and Dela Paz Trophy.

Host venues for the summer tour are Malarayat, John Hay, Southwoods, Sherwoods, Capitol, Riviera, Orchard, Tagaytay Highlands, TAT Filipinas and Canlubang.

Jungolf Foundation of the Philippine chair Amalia Montecillo, president Sam Pagdanganan, director Gerry Handog, PAL official , golf director of Malarayat, Jack Imperial will hit the ceremonial drives.

Former world age-group champion Wolen Superal will be spearheading the bid of ICSTI, John Kier Abdon banners the campaign of Riviera and two Koreans are in the Eagle Ridge lineup. Miko Yee will be the player to watch in the Class A individual race.

Madrigal sparkles

KARTING PRODIGY ALESSANDRA MADRIgal is showing her mettle in the ongoing Rotax Max Mojo Challenge. The 11-year-old Madrigal barely missed sweeping the first four races, settling for three titles and a runner-up finish.

No wonder, new endorsement contracts from Petron Treats, Oakley Philippines and Birel Karts, signed on her behalf by Alessandra Racing Team, Inc., are coming her way. Madrigal is also being supported by Chicago City Day School, Pitts Performance and Skin Food.

"I'd like to thank all of my sponsors for helping me with my campaign and for the chance to carry their brands in all of my races," said Madrigal, who is being coached by former world karting champion Terry Fullerton of the UK.

MADRIGAL: Karting sensation.

JSAP finishes Ilocos Sur run

THE JET SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (JSAP) recently staged a successful Ilocos Sur Jetski Fun Run Tour that culminated in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

The event was hosted by mayoralty aspirant Sammy Parilla, concurrent Mayor Chinita Parilla, and their son Sammy Boy, an active JSAP member, to promote the tourist spots of Bantay as well as promote the fun and safety of jetski riding.

The JSAP riders, led by Networx Jetsports' Dong Arcilla and Rider of the Year BJ Ang, started their trail at Pagsanaan Magsingal and went hopping to the islands of Cabugao and Badoc.

From there, they got off from their skis for a sightseeing tour of Cabugao, San Juan, Sinait and Currimao. Other JSAP riders who joined the group are Alex and Darlene Isip, Mike and Jam Mangio, Alex Acacio, Gerry Santos, Vince Cruz, Vince Cruz Jr, Henry Hizon, Omar Turalde, Noel Santiago, Nakatani Tokuhiro , Imelda Lopez, Jojo Genato, Alex Favis, Mayor Boy Favis, Chino Favis, Alrico Favis and Coleen Parilla.

Coach's killing exposes cricket's dark side

KINGSTON, JAMAICA—CRICKET, ESpecially that rambunctious form of the sport practiced in the Caribbean, has always been about far more than the ball, the wickets and the smartly dressed men standing out in the sun. Off-pitch antics always rival the game itself on the islands.

But when the Jamaican authorities confirmed that the coach of the disappointing Pakistani national team had been strangled, the Cricket World Cup, which is being played on nine different Caribbean islands this month and next, gained the world's attention in a way the sport never quite has outside the cricket-crazed countries of the former British Empire.

On Friday, police officers were stationed throughout the Pegasus Hotel, where the body of the coach, Bob Woolmer, was found Sunday morning and where many players and team officials are staying. Police investigators were combing the hotel for clues, reviewing security videos and awaiting a toxicology report for possible poisoning. The authorities were also weighing numerous motives and suspects, including accusations of game fixing, enraged gamblers and disgruntled fans or team members.

At first, it was thought Woolmer, 58, had died of a heart attack, probably brought on by the stress of the loss. Then suicide was considered a possibility.

Finally, the deputy police commissioner, Mark Shields, a detective from Scotland Yard brought into the Jamaica Constabulary Force two years ago to quell the island's crime wave, announced Thursday that he suspected the coach had been murdered, and that he probably knew his attackers. "Bob is a large man, and it would take some significant force to strangle him, but we don't know at this point how many people were in his room," Shields said Thursday. "There was very little evidence of a struggle."

Police interviewed and fingerprinted all the Pakistani players and team officials and took DNA samples on Friday. At the same time, the police said Friday night that the team would be allowed to leave the country. Two team officials would stay behind, and two Pakistani diplomats are expected to arrive on Saturday.

Players were asked when they last saw Woolmer, whether he had been distraught and whether anybody had a grudge against him. *NYT News Service*

Jun B goes

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A JOYOUS OCCAsion. His close friend and business partner Moying Martelino was celebrating his 72nd birthday and they had planned a surprise party for him at the Manila Polo Club in Makati. Moying's eldest son Cito was supposed to invite kin and friends of family, while Jun Bernardino was tasked to ensure the presence of friends in the sporting circle.

It took the former PBA commissioner and Cito a month to organize the party but it was well worth it.

Moying was overwhelmed and moved to tears when confronted with the preparations. The company was great and so was the feast. The program made everybody laugh. Prominent guests included PLDT's Manny V. Pangilinan, the POC's Peping Cojuangco, Joey Romasanta, Cito Dayrit and Steve Hontiveros, former NBN-4 general manager Ramy Diez, Best's Nic and Marilyn Jorge, Chito Loyzaga and V-League associates Ricky Palou, Tony Boy Liao, Rhea Navarro and Elmer and Esper Yanga.

The party was a huge success with everyone having fun and, as one of the *punong abala*, Jun B got a big chunk of the credit for this.

* * *

By 2 a.m. with only a handful of guests left, Jun stood up and headed for the veranda to get some fresh air. He had been having severe stomach pains and had gone to the comfort room twice. He pointed to a fish dish as the source of his woes. At this point, his friends noticed that his shirt was drenched in sweat.

For the third time that night, he headed straight for the toilet, followed by Ricky Palou. Not long after, Ricky heard a loud thud. He banged on the door where Jun had locked himself in, but getting no response, proceeded to destroy the lock to get the door open.

Jun had collapsed. He was blue in the face and was hardly breathing. Only a faint pulse could be felt. As they waited for the ambulance, they tried everything to resuscitate him.

* * *

Jun was still alive when the ambulance reached the Makati Medical Center where every effort was exerted to revive him.

By about 3:30 a.m., he was pronounced dead. He had suffered a massive second heart attack, this time fatal. The first one occurred close to six years ago in Baguio when he was still PBA commissioner. He was 59 years old, going on 60 this November.

The doctors did not recommend either angioplasty or heart bypass then, but asked him to look for a heart donor. Only a transplant would make him well again, they said.

Jun opted for chelation treatment and from the looks of it appeared like he had fully recovered.

Until early Saturday morning. None from among the guests would suspect that anything like this would happen.

* * *

MVP, for one, was shocked. He had spoken with Jun at the party and they were planning a meeting the following Sunday (today).

"I wanted to talk to him regarding the SBP. However, we were not able to fix the date because he had commitments this weekend. We promised to text each other for the schedule of the meeting," MVP said.

"*Parang paalam pala niya sa atin lahat* last night. That is very sad. He's a huge loss to Philippine basketball. Let's pray for him."

Not only a huge loss to basketball, but volleyball, and perhaps baseball too. At the time of his demise, Jun and his group were in the process of forming a baseball league similar to the V-league.

* * *

I can't believe I'd see Jun B through almost his entire basketball career. As a Sunday Times magazine trainee, I first interviewed Jun when he was still a UP Maroon. He was already chubby at that time. I next saw him assisting coach Fely Fajardo on the Tefilin bench in the PBA. In 1982 we both worked for Vintage, he in front of the cameras as the "Man on the Ball," and me behind as a writer. Later he succeeded Pepito Castro as executive director of the PBA, working in that capacity for several years. Then in 1994, he was installed as PBA commissioner, serving until 2002.

Jun is well-loved and will be missed by all.

Related story on page 23.

LSGH Summer Camp April 10

THE LA SALLE GREEN HILLS SUMMER BASKETball camp kicks off on April 10. The program is designed for kids 7-17 years of age. Non-Lasallians are welcome to join. Five courses consisting of eight sessions each are being offered. The first batch starts on April 10, the second on April 26 and the third on May 11. All sessions will be held at the LSGH wooden courts 1-3:30 pm weekdays. Registration fee is P2300, inclusive of a reversible camp jersey. Interested parties may call 722-7717 or 721-2000 loc 718.

Baking Our Way to the HALL OF FAME

PGMA, along with officials from the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA), presented the 2006 Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year Award to Dr. Jose Enrico Gandionco (2nd from right) and Virgilio G. Espeleta (right) of Julie's Franchise Corporation.

For the second time in a row, Julie's Franchise Corporation won the coveted Outstanding Filipino Franchise of the Year from the Philippine Franchise Association.

The consecutive wins, one in 2005 then in 2006, elevated us to the Hall of Fame—a feat only a few other Franchise companies have attained.

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With these, we achieve our company objectives, develop loyal customers, and turn our Franchisees into successful Entrepreneurs... and manage to get into the Hall of Fame too.

PFA officials with PGMA, presented to Carolyn and Ramon Francisco, (3rd and 2nd from right) the 2006 Franchisee of the Year Award.

Another Julie's Franchisee wins the Franchisee of the Year Award.

Ms. Carolyn Francisco would never be mistaken for the Big Boss. But she is. She owns six Julie's bakeshops in Laguna, managing over 60 people and running the business hands-on. She always makes sure that her thousands of customers are happy and loyal.

In the last Franchise Excellence Awards, Ms. Carolyn Francisco bested franchisees from other companies in winning The Outstanding Franchisee of the Year for 2006. It comes as no surprise as Ms. Francisco is one that lives and imbibes excellence in everything she does.

"I also attribute this award to the support of Julie's Franchise Corporation. With them around to lend guidance, you can win this award", says Ms. Francisco.

Last year, the winner of the much sought after award also came from Julie's – Ms. Ritchie Hawak of Julie's Lipa and Batangas.

With hardwork, dedication, and total support from the franchisor, Julie's Bakeshop Franchisees are indeed award winners.

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Sizzling hot Kobe jots down yet another 50

SPALDING
PAUL
3
OLEANS
3

KOBE Bryant's 50 came despite constant double teams by the Hornets.

NEW ORLEANS—KOBE BRYANT WANTS to be remembered for scoring points and winning basketball games, not the suspension-yielding swipes he's taken at opposing players.

If he keeps this up, he may get his wish.

Bryant scored 50 points to lead Los Angeles over the New Orleans Hornets 111-105 on Friday, making the Lakers star only the second player in NBA history with at least that many points in four consecutive games.

"Remember that suspension two weeks ago?" Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, referring to a one-game suspension Bryant got for hitting Minnesota Timberwolves guard Marko Jaric. "I think this has motivated him."

Bryant, who also was suspended in January for hitting San Antonio's Manu Ginobili, had scoring totals of 65, 50 and 60 in his previous three games, all Lakers victories.

"The thing that was frustrating for me was people were talking about, 'He's a dirty player,' which, for me, is pretty insulting," Bryant said. "To have people talking about something else—it's a much better feeling."

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
7:30 a.m.—Philadelphia vs Miami
(replays @ 4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.)

Only the late Wilt Chamberlain has had more 50-point games in a row than Bryant, hitting that mark in seven consecutive games during the 1961-62 season. Bryant, of course, has long since learned all about Chamberlain, the basketball legend. He's also studied up on Elgin Baylor and knows Michael Jordan, the only other players to hit at least 50 three straight times.

Bryant said his recent streak has resulted from his feeling great physically and his teammates helping him get better looks at the basket. But Bryant hit off-balance fades over double teams and other shots of similar difficulty as well.

And he calmly made all 16 free throws he attempted while the opposing crowd tried to rattle him with arm-waving taunts.

"He's just been in such a good rhythm and he's such a good player that when he's feeling like that, it's kind of hard not to just keep going to him because it's amazing to watch and there's a good chance you're going to score," Lakers forward Luke Walton said.

Hitting everything from long 3-pointers to fadeaways off the glass, Bryant scored 10 points in the first three minutes of the second half during a 14-4 run that gave the Lakers the lead for good at 70-61.

His one-handed floater as he skipped across the lane gave him 39 points and Los Angeles a 78-65 lead with 5:28 still remaining in the third quarter. A half-minute later, Bryant made a 3-pointer from the corner that prompted a rumble from the hostile crowd and excitement for a young boy in a courtside seat.

"I went over to the sideline and I said 'watch this 3, I've got a 3 for you,'" Bryant said, "Then I knocked down a 3 and gave him a high-five." *AP*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Indiana 95, Miami 70; Toronto 121, Denver 94; Philadelphia 106, Charlotte 97; Orlando 90, New Jersey 82; Dallas 109, Boston 95; Cleveland 90, New York 68; Portland 102, Atlanta 100, OT; San Antonio 90, Detroit 89; LA Lakers 111, New Orleans 105; Seattle 85, Minnesota 82; LA Clippers 104, Utah 72; Golden State 135, Washington 128

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Georgetown finally advances via thriller

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—Jeff Green spun and banked in a short, off-balance shot with 2.5 seconds to play and Georgetown edged Vanderbilt by a harder-than expected 66-65 in the US college basketball championship on Friday.

The victory was the seventh straight and 18th in 19 games for second-seeded Georgetown (29-6) and put them in the East Regional final for the first time in 11 years.

It will be a game for fans to savor: Georgetown vs North Carolina, a rematch of the 1982 championship game that Michael Jordan won in the closing seconds for the Tar Heels.

Sixth-seeded Vanderbilt (22-12) had one last chance to win the semifinal but a long 3-pointer by Alex Gordon was contested by Green, the Big East player of the year.

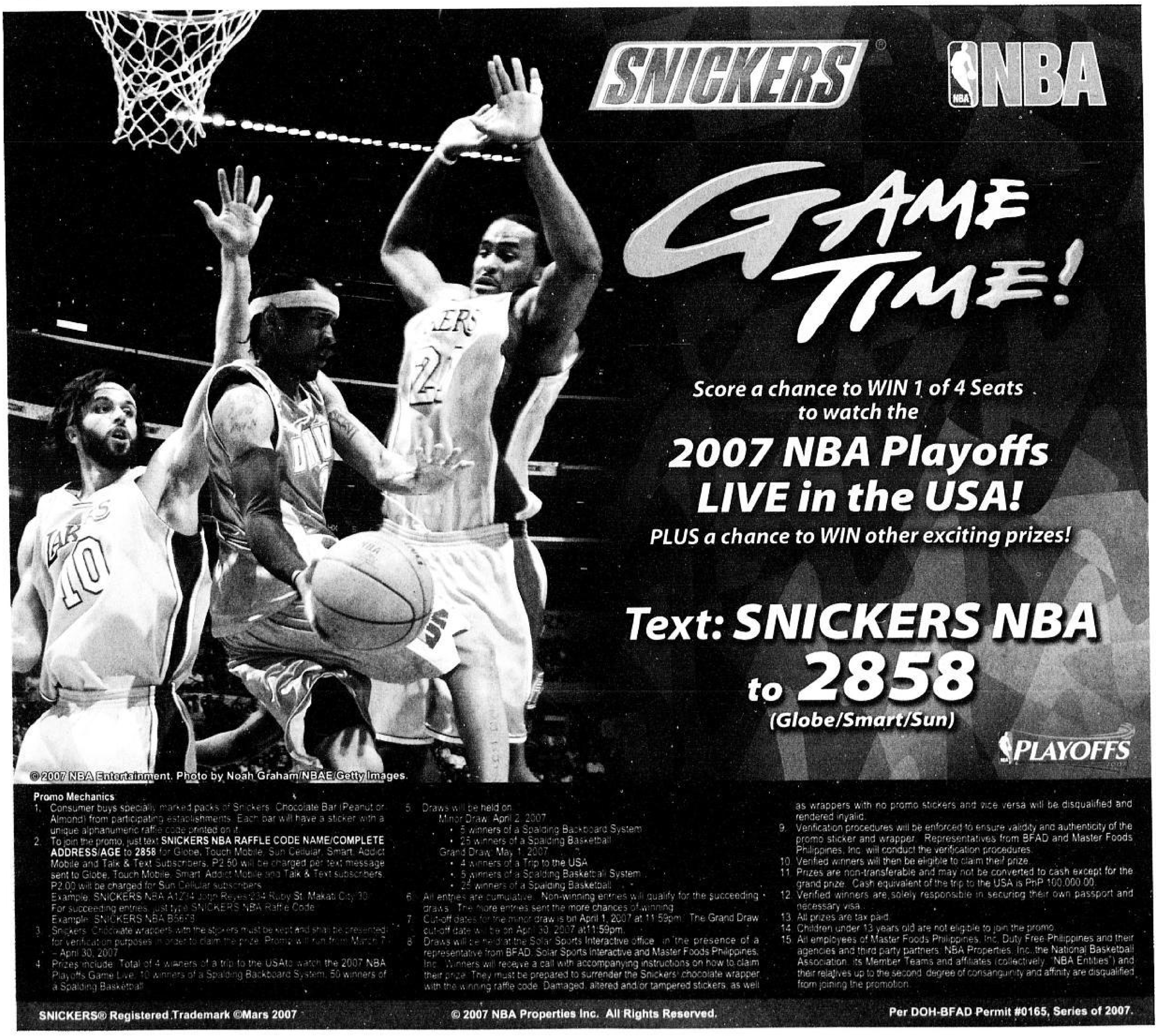
Brandan Wright compensated for off games by Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson and top-seeded North Carolina (31-6) almost waited too long to make their move before subduing Southern California, 74-64.

Down by 16 points early in the second half, the Tar Heels suddenly shifted into another gear and startled Southern California.

Fifth-seeded USC (25-12) was putting on a dunking exhibition and led 49-33 with 17:42 left before it all fell apart.

At St. Louis, defending champion Florida started slowly—again—and staved off another challenge with a late surge to beat Butler, 65-57.

Tajuan Porter, the little guy nobody wanted, has Oregon one game away from the Final Four after leading his school past UNLV, 76-72. *AP*



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Sunday SPORTS

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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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KOBE Bryant's 50 came despite constant double teams by the Hornets.

Sizzling hot Kobe jots down yet another 50

NEW ORLEANS—KOBE BRYANT WANTS to be remembered for scoring points and winning basketball games, not the suspension-yielding swipes he's taken at opposing players.

If he keeps this up, he may get his wish.

Bryant scored 50 points to lead Los Angeles over the New Orleans Hornets 111-105 on Friday, making the Lakers star only the second player in NBA history with at least that many points in four consecutive games.

"Remember that suspension two weeks ago?" Lakers coach Phil Jackson said, referring to a one-game suspension Bryant got for hitting Minnesota Timberwolves guard Marko Jaric. "I think this has motivated him."

Bryant, who also was suspended in January for hitting San Antonio's Manu Ginobili, had scoring totals of 65, 50 and 60 in his previous three games, all Lakers victories.

"The thing that was frustrating for me was people were talking about, 'He's a dirty player,' which, for me, is pretty insulting," Bryant said. "To have people talking about something else—it's a much better feeling."

GAME TODAY (*Basketball TV*)
7:30 a.m.—Philadelphia vs Miami
(replays @ 4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.)

Only the late Wilt Chamberlain has had more 50-point games in a row than Bryant, hitting that mark in seven consecutive games during the 1961-62 season. Bryant, of course, has long since learned all about Chamberlain, the basketball legend. He's also studied up on Elgin Baylor and knows Michael Jordan, the only other players to hit at least 50 three straight times.

Bryant said his recent streak has resulted from his feeling great physically and his teammates helping him get better looks at the basket. But Bryant hit off-balance fades over double teams and other shots of similar difficulty as well.

And he calmly made all 16 free throws he attempted while the opposing crowd tried to rattle him with arm-waving taunts.

"He's just been in such a good rhythm and he's such a good player that when he's feeling like that, it's kind of hard not to just keep going to him because it's amazing to watch and there's a good chance you're going to score," Lakers forward Luke Walton said.

Hitting everything from long 3-pointers to fadeaways off the glass, Bryant scored 10 points in the first three minutes of the second half during a 14-4 run that gave the Lakers the lead for good at 70-61.

His one-handed floater as he skipped across the lane gave him 39 points and Los Angeles a 78-65 lead with 5:28 still remaining in the third quarter. A half-minute later, Bryant made a 3-pointer from the corner that prompted a rumble from the hostile crowd and excitement for a young boy in a courtside seat.

"I went over to the sideline and I said 'watch this 3, I've got a 3 for you,'" Bryant said, "Then I knocked down a 3 and gave him a high-five." *AP*

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Indiana 95, Miami 70; Toronto 121, Denver 94; Philadelphia 106, Charlotte 97; Orlando 90, New Jersey 82; Dallas 109, Boston 95; Cleveland 90, New York 68; Portland 102, Atlanta 100, OT; San Antonio 90, Detroit 89; LA Lakers 111, New Orleans 105; Seattle 85, Minnesota 82; LA Clippers 104, Utah 72; Golden State 135, Washington 128

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Georgetown finally advances via thriller

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY—Jeff Green spun and banked in a short, off-balance shot with 2.5 seconds to play and Georgetown edged Vanderbilt by a harder-than expected 66-65 in the US college basketball championship on Friday.

The victory was the seventh straight and 18th in 19 games for second-seeded Georgetown (29-6) and put them in the East Regional final for the first time in 11 years.

It will be a game for fans to savor: Georgetown vs North Carolina, a rematch of the 1982 championship game that Michael Jordan won in the closing seconds for the Tar Heels.

Sixth-seeded Vanderbilt (22-12) had one last chance to win the semifinal but a long 3-pointer by Alex Gordon was contested by Green, the Big East player of the year.

Brandan Wright compensated for off games by Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson and top-seeded North Carolina (31-6) almost waited too long to make their move before subduing Southern California, 74-64.

Down by 16 points early in the second half, the Tar Heels suddenly shifted into another gear and startled Southern California.

Fifth-seeded USC (25-12) was putting on a dunking exhibition and led 49-33 with 17:42 left before it all fell apart.

At St. Louis, defending champion Florida started slowly—again—and staved off another challenge with a late surge to beat Butler, 65-57.

Tajuan Porter, the little guy nobody wanted, has Oregon one game away from the Final Four after leading his school past UNLV, 76-72. *AP*

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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IN THIS ISSUE

- **Lady exec had step** of stairs as school desk /B2
- **Sisters act to help** locals earn from crochet /B4

This drug exec can dance

And talk about molecular biochemistry

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

FIRST JOB

AS POLITICIANS need to sing and dance to endear themselves to the Filipino voters, business executives often find themselves being asked to belt out a song or do a cha-cha during employee gatherings.

ALAN M. Knox with Fiona, his wife of 16 years

Few foreign executives however would attempt to perform, during their first meeting with the employees. But not Alan M. Knox, the 10-month-old president of AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical (Phils.) Inc., the fourth largest company in the ethical (prescription drugs) market.

Its mother company is based in Britain and is a leader in heart medicine like betablocker and nitrates markets; ulcer and cancer drugs. It employs 66,000 employees worldwide.

Fast dance

During the combined farewell party for outgoing president Cristina Ackerman and welcome party for Knox, attended by employees, and managers of AstraZeneca, Knox danced to a fast tune to break the ice.

For a few seconds, the employees seemed shocked at seeing their new head take on the dance floor. But shock turned to admiration as Knox showed he can dance.

And why not? He admits that at the height of the Saturday Night Fever movie, he was touted as the John Travolta among his peers in London.

Love for dancing came from watching his parents and their friends dance the night away in their drawing room when he was growing up.

He was so enamored he took dancing lessons for six years, from 11 to 16.

Alan says he would have become a professional dancer if not for another earlier love—medicine.

Lest people think Knox is all fluff—get this—he gave up becoming a professional dancer to study Biomolecular Science or molecular biochemistry as a preparatory course for medicine.

Fond memories

From six years old to 18 he wanted to be a doctor, simply because of fond memories of their family doctor whom Alan says was a very "affable man."

Knox became neither a doctor nor a dancer. Yet his scientific know-how is probably better than most doctors today; and his moves on the dance floor can pass for that of a pro.

The joys of earning one's own money sidetracked him after college. He joined Lipha Chemicals, a French firm as a med rep in the UK in 1983. After four years he became a hospital representative with Imperial Chemical Industries, a chemicals giant in the UK.

In 1992, ICI split into two companies—as a chemical company and Zeneca, a pharmaceutical and agrochemicals business. In 1994, Zeneca merged with Astra, a Swedish firm.

Even as a young med rep, Knox surprised doctors and colleagues with his wide knowledge of the drugs he was selling. He was labeled as the "most technically competent med rep." It was not long before he was noticed and sent to Poland to set up a sales team. By this time ICI had become Zeneca Pharmaceuticals.

Wide knowledge

In Poland, Alan interviewed each new hire yet it took him only three months to assemble a team.

"If you know what the principles are in getting people, it's easy," he says. "You get people with potentials."

"All over the world, doctors and patients are the same. But you have to understand the culture of the place," adds Knox.

NEW pharma head collects antique maps and is a conoisseur of malt whiskies.

In Poland, most of the med reps were medical doctors since their pay from the pharma companies were higher than what the government hospitals were paying.

After two years in Eastern Europe, Knox became a global brand manager. That started Knox' marketing career which lasted almost a decade from 1994 to 2002.

In 1999, when he was head of marketing for emerging markets of the newly merged AstraZeneca, Knox's job was to make his team become "consultants" of the various countries he headed.

He says their approach was like that of a doctor treating a patient. They would sit with the team, analyze the market, identify the problem and diagnose it.

Doctor approach

He was involved in countries from Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and Asia.

In the past, the basic marketing strategy of the firm to sell its drugs to the doctors was to adopt education programs.

"The education bent is like attending a scientific meeting. It's not like a social activity. ICI is a very ethical company. There are no social events," he says.

That was in 1984. He admits things have changed so much the past years.

Doctors now demand social activities bundled with conferences.

THIS DRUG/ B2

Commercial Arcade

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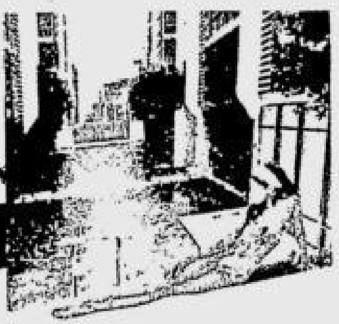

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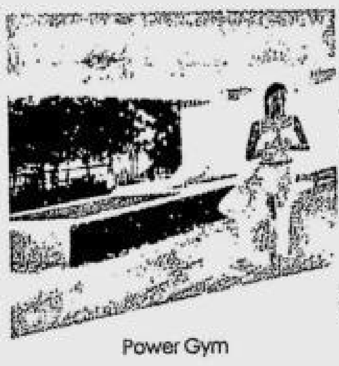
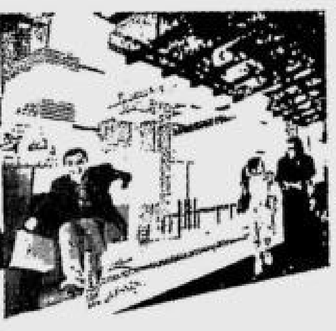
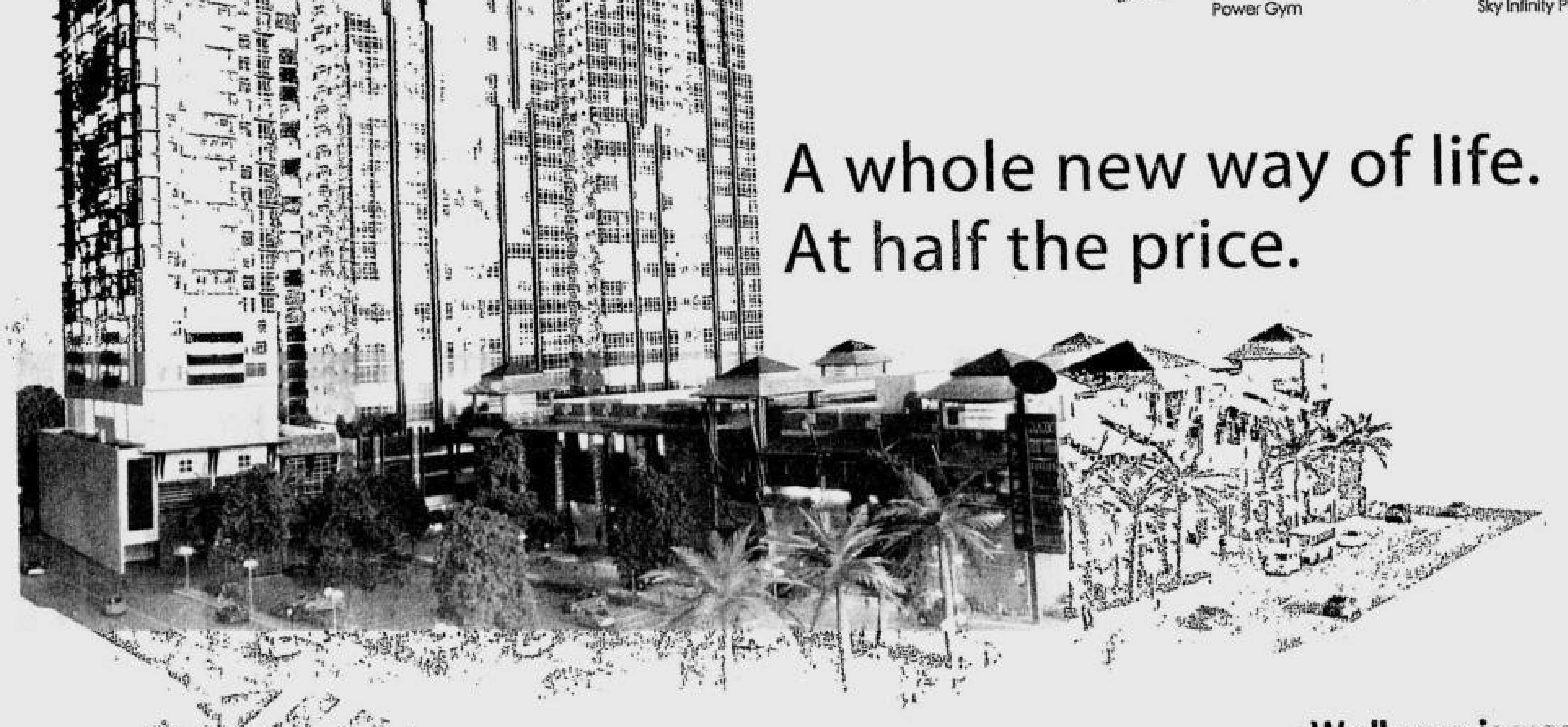


Power Gym

Sky Infinity Pool



Resort Spa Pool



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Lady exec had step of stairs as school desk

WITH NO MONEY, HYUNDAI'S COO WOULD go to the chapel or library to keep hunger pangs at bay.

Fe Perez-Agudo is the EVP and COO of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari).

She is petite but she can walk tall.

Agudo came from a family where the opportunity for luxury was bleak. Her parents did not finish their education and relied only on their simple innate ability to raise a family of 10 children to make both ends meet.

Each child was assigned one step of the stairs in a small house as his/her private study table. While still young, she learned to focus her mind and her energy helping her parents earn money.

Not only with the objective to bring home honor to her alma mater, but in exchange for cash rewards, she joined and won in interschool Metro Manila essay writing and public speaking contests. The beautiful part however was it meant overcoming her shyness.

Her economic status did not deter her from giving her best in her endeavors albeit, it gave her the strong motivation to excel in anything she embarked on.

Agudo was a full-time scholar at St. Scholastica's College where she earned the degree in Bachelor of Science, major in Accounting. She chose the Leon Guinto Campus instead of the University of the Philippines to cut additional expenses for fare and clothing. Without any lunch pocket money, she had to spend her lunch break either inside the chapel, the library or as a working student in the Dean's office so as to keep her hunger pangs at bay.

AGUDO

Student council president

The landmark in her political life as a student was when she became the student council president and later as convenor of the Metro Manila Student Leader's Forum in 1983.

The experience developed a tenacity in her to firmly decide what she will become in the future.

After college graduation, she gave up the opportunity to work with the SGV accounting firm to get a better and quicker chance to earn money. She joined the Sales Department of Cityland.

Working eight days a week to beat deadlines, meet quotas and achieve sales targets became her ticket to a string of promotions and substantial commissions enabling her to send her younger siblings to college at a tender age of 22.

She thanked God that almost all her siblings are now successful professionals after going through the same struggles.

Motherhood

Parenting is another aspect where Agudo triumphed with ease. She is proud to share that her son, Don David, is an accomplished student at age 16, belonging to the Class 2008 composed of the top 240 students in the country, who got a high school scholarship at the Philippine Science High School.

Her daughter Isabel, now age 13, also got a seven-year mid and high school scholarship at the International School of Manila (ISM)and is a consistent honor student .

She is also mother to two nieces—Kim, graduating from high school at Colegio San Agustin this year; and Tamica, second year college at Southville International.

Agudo is a gym buff too and never neglects her duties at home. She attends the day-to-day household needs by getting up at 5 a. m. and retiring at 11 p. m.

How can Hyundai falter with her at the helm?

Hari may now be enjoying phenomenal success but getting to where it is now was not achieved overnight. The sound business acumen and gut feel of Agudo helped propel Hari to where it is now. Calculated risks were taken but years of focus and drive for excellence have given her the results even beyond set expectations.

"Competition will always change the rules of the games in business. Relying on my survival instincts in decision-making helped me during negotiations with the top honchos of our principal, the Korean car maker, Hyundai Motor Company. In the end, I have won their trust and confidence. Today, we have their full support and admiration," says Agudo

Hari's performance may be mirrored by the growth of its dealership. From four dealers in September 2001, it now has 32 dealers enjoying having the biggest dealer network in the country.

A major milestone for Hari was winning Hyundai's Asia Pacific Distributor of the Year Award for 2005 after attaining a 103 percent growth in sales last year. It is now on its way to breaking the 5 percent target market share and became the top 5 of the automotive industry in five years.

The 5-5-5 battle plan is being realized.

"Good performance for me will always be influenced by the right product, right timing and the right people to make it happen," says Agudo.

"I believe that the COO is the catalyst of success in an organization. It is the COO's vision that moves the organization to the heights it wants to achieve. The COO is the fomenter who gives the organization the challenge...the direction...to get to where it wants to be. At the end of the day, I see to it that all plans are quantified, measured and time bound," she says in explaining her role in the company.

Agudo admits that having been part of the real estate industry, there was a risk in her entering unknown territory such as cars.

"But I believe in destiny, and I also believe that with my passion and drive for excellence I can hurdle any odds in any industry I will be exposed to. Learning is a necessary ingredient to success. I never stopped the process of learning. I am into it 24/7."

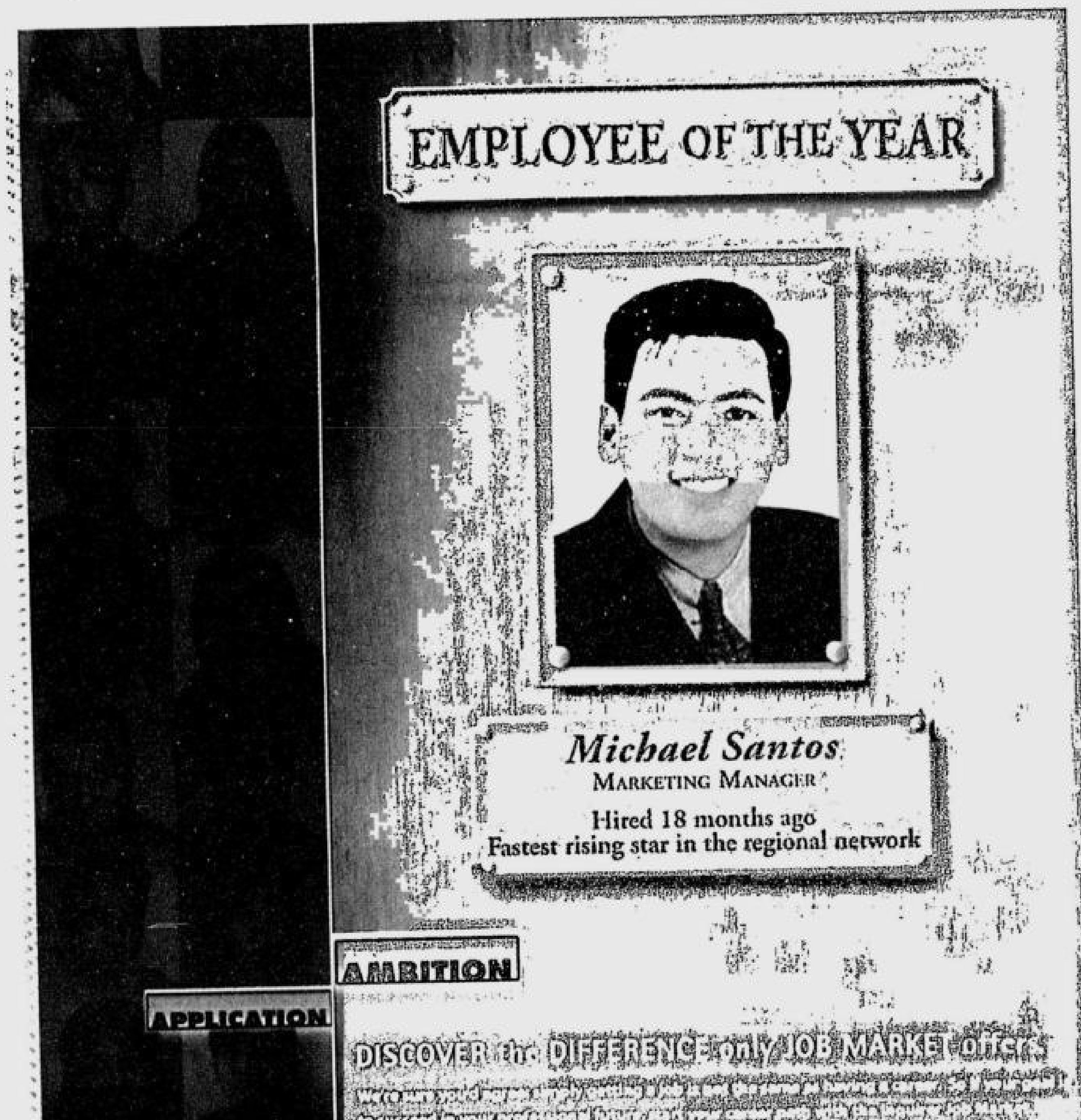
Despite reaching her targets, Agudo says, "The job is not over yet."

Challenges as COO

"People management as a key factor to an organization's success is a major challenge. How to marry the objectives of the company with the personal goals of each employee never fails to amaze and challenge me. The dynamics of human behavior is so broad that understanding it requires a personal touch. With only 68 manpower complement, attending to 500 car sales a month, I cannot afford to be detached from these people , for it is them that can make or break the organization. I believe managing the talents of the organization will help us grow the business."

But her ultimate goal is attaining peace.

"Yes, I am at peace with myself, I am at peace with my Creator and I am at peace with the world. I will continue to share my talents with people so that at one point, we can become drivers of economic growth."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This drug exec can dance

From page B1

Knox says the firms work hard to keep within the ethics of the industry.

A bigger role was thrown to Knox when he was made business unit director of AstraZeneca Mexico.

"I did not speak a word of Spanish and had one hour lessons everyday," he says.

Because he is a morning person, his lessons would take place from 7 to 8 in the morning.

Knox says in whatever place he is posted, he makes sure he makes an impact "and leaves a piece of my heart."

In Poland, it was "building a new team of quality and talent. In Mexico, being the No. 1 team—we achieved this aim in 2005 with an award from the industry for performance. In the Philippines, to be the fastest growing and most ethical pharmaceutical company in the Philippines."

In the Philippines, AstraZeneca has evolved into a marketing firm, with its manufacturing done via toll and the other drugs imported.

Knox's stay in the Philippines has not been without its bumps. He had to assure smooth union relations; motivate 400 med reps and ensure they abide by ethical practices valued by the firm.

Another issue faces him and the multinational drug firms—Sen. Mar Roxas has filed a bill parallel importation of drugs but which has a provision that calls for the removal of intellectual property rights of drug firms for their medicine in the Philippines.

If passed into law, it would adversely affect the MNCs as anyone can produce the same medicine. Knox says AstraZeneca spends $14 million daily for the research of new drugs.

Knox says he is willing to talk to Senator Roxas about the issue as what he fears the most is this could increase the propensity for fake drugs.

Besides, he says, the Philippines is a signatory to the World Trade Organization provisions on IPR.

But Knox takes all these in stride. What he wants most to happen is for the Philippines to be able to provide reimbursement to the poor for part of their medical expenses.

He knows it will take legislation but he hopes that soon he will be able to make those who can do something about the issue listen to him.

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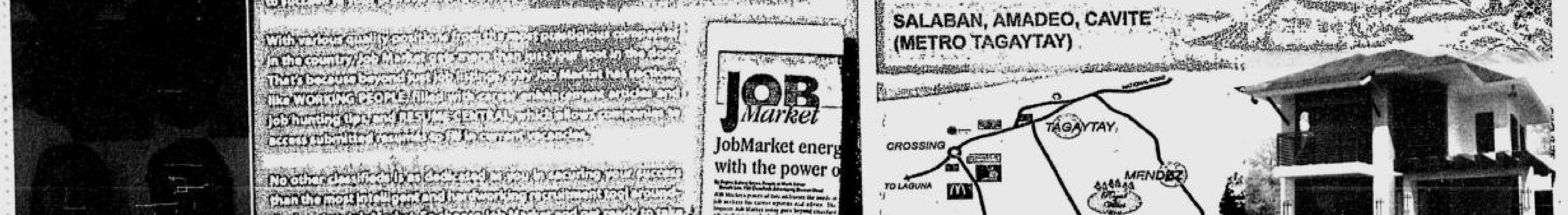
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Sisters act to help locals. . .

From page B4

When Venice was just introducing the product in the market, her network of friends helped her find potential buyers.

Back then, the business' only target was the local market.

From Venice Handmade designs, it was changed into Krinoche when Venice's sister Vickie joined the business in 1991.

The name Krinoche is a colloquial Filipino and English term for crochet products.

In 1993, the Valdez sisters expanded the workforce from 1 to 50 persons to increase the production. They also hired subcontractors in a community in San Juan, Batangas.

Because of the expansion, Krinoche was able to supply products to Rustan's, Landmark, and in various bazaars and department stores.

It has also started exporting in some countries, in the US and Europe.

Just in the first week of March, Krinoche shipped samples of its crochet works to Hawaii.

Working at home

The women of Krinoche are allowed to take their work at home.

"Most of them report to the main workshop place in Los Baños, Laguna twice or thrice a week to get the materials or submit their works. So, they can have more time with their family at home," Vickie says.

Vickie and Venice usually create the designs and the women workers execute them.

"But we encourage the women to also create their own samples and to teach their children to do crochet," Vickie claims.

She says that because Krinoche's sales are high during Christmas and summer season, workers also increase their production before these seasons.

"Most people buy gift items every Christmas and most of their products are summer garments like swimwear, hats, and bags," she says.

At present, Krinoche has five branches in SM malls—two in Ortigas, one in Makati City, one in North Edsa, and one in Mall of Asia.

On the first week of March, Venice and Vicky opened a store at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Survival

One of the major problems that Krinoche had to address was the tight competition with products from China.

Vickie says that since the first quarter of 2000, many Chinese crochet products had entered the market with lower prices.

"We are heavily affected by the competition. Our sales have really gone down," she says.

Thus, Krinoche had to adapt and look for ways to survive.

"One solution we saw was a continuous product development. We experimented on colors and incorporate native materials in our product," Vickie says.

Some of the native materials they use are buri palm and small seashells.

"We can't make the price of our products the same with (products) made in China because lowering the price means a decrease in the workers' pay," she explains.

Later on, however, they have experienced increase in sales as some buyers wanted good quality products even though their prices are higher than the imported ones, she says.

Vickie notes that the business was not stable and they were earning just enough to survive to maintain their workforce and to run the stores.

"It is like a cycle. We could not equate the losses last year with the gains this year," she says.

Asked what keeps the business going, "If you see the dedication of the workers and you know that the business serves as a contribution to the community, you are encouraged to go on," she says.

VICKIE Valdez, co-owner of Krinoche

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   d. For the Grand Prize (1) - Store and Sales Partners win Php7,000 each
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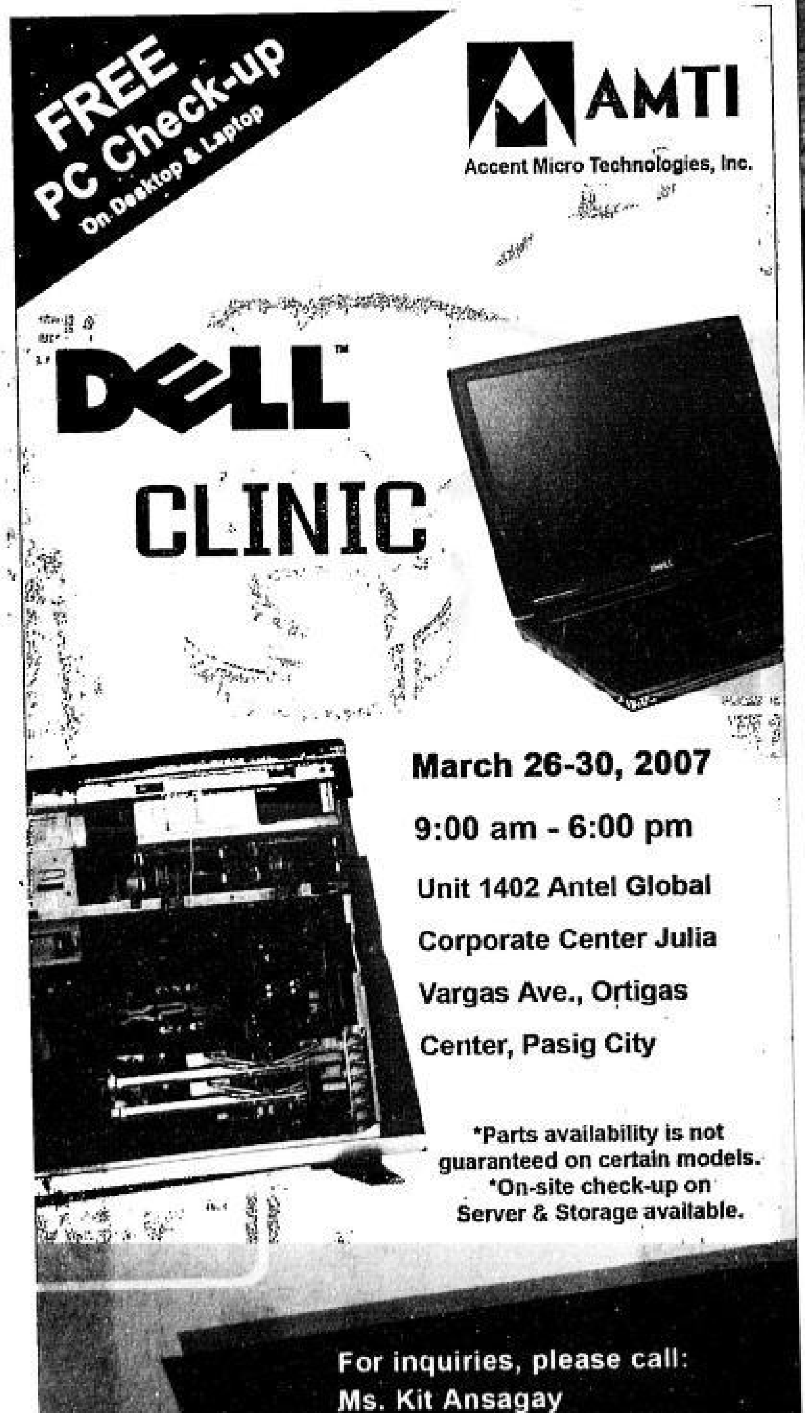

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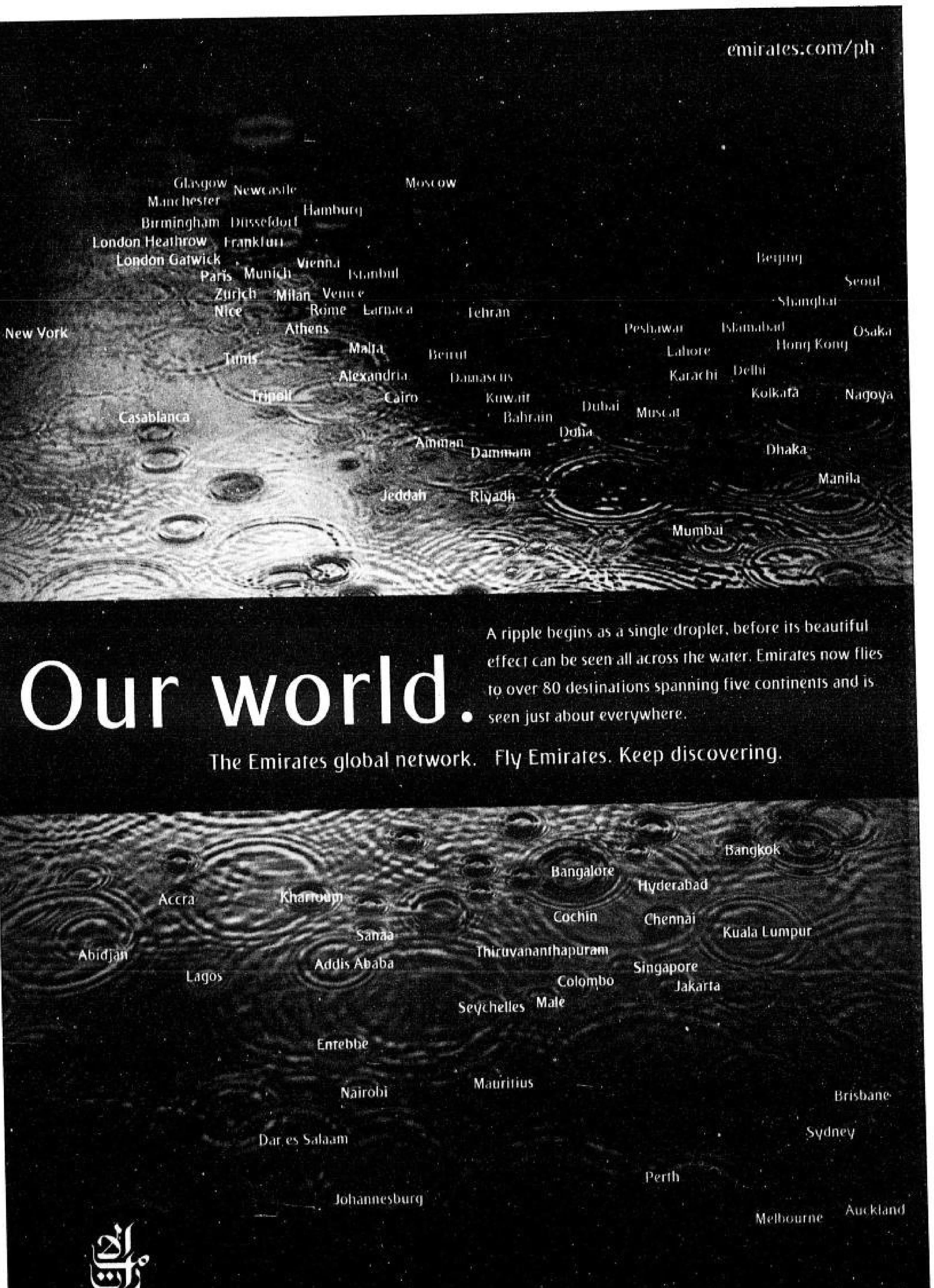

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Sisters act to help locals earn from crochet

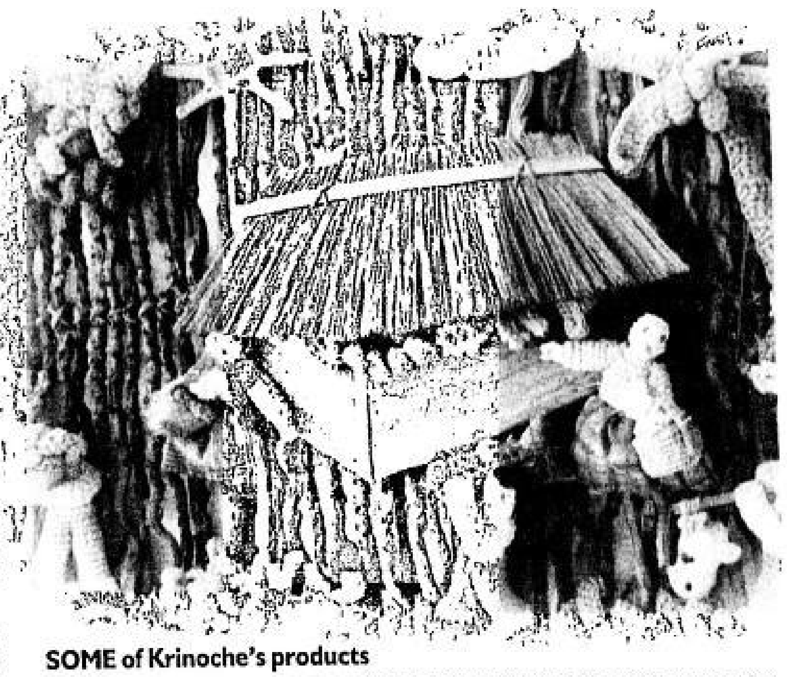
By **Niña Catherine Calleja**
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—FOR Rocila Flores, 47, crocheting used to be a past-time activity done in between household chores. Until Krinoche, a company producing various crocheted works, came to their community in 1991.

A high school graduate, Flores says looking for work was very difficult as she has five kids to look after.

Yet she was eager to look for a job because the income of her husband, a farmer, was not enough for their children's schooling, she says.

So when Venice Valdez visited their town and offered a work that she could have at home, she immediately accepted the job.



SOME of Krinoche's products

PHOTOS BY NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

For almost a decade now, Flores has been a production staff member of Krinoche and her extra income in doing crochet works augmented her family's finances to meet her children's needs in school.

Flores is one of the women whom Krinoche has provided an employment.

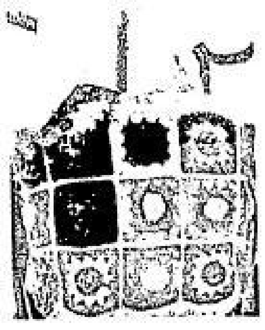
Employing women mostly from Los Baños and Bay, Laguna, Krinoche has stores in Laguna and Metro Manila and it exports its products abroad thrice a year.

Its specialties are crocheted bags, wallets, cases, hats, belts, swim wear and other accessories.

Expansion

Venice started the business in 1990 with the business name Venice Handmade Designs.

The business started with P3,500 as initial capital and depended only on one worker.



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Ayala

NOTICE OF REGULAR ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **AYALA CORPORATION** will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the InterContinental Manila, Ayala Ave., Makati City, on **Friday, 30 March 2007at 9:00 A.M.** with the following

AGENDA

1. Determination of Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
3. Annual Report
4. New Business
    - 4.1 Ratification of all Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management adopted during the preceding year in the ordinary course of business.
    - 4.2 Ratification of the Resolutions of the Board of Directors adopted on 07 December 2006 declaring a 20% Stock Dividend and approving the increase in authorized capital stock from ₱26B to ₱37B, and the amendment of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation to reflect the capital increase.
    - 4.3 Ratification of the Merger into Ayala Corporation of its wholly-owned subsidiary, PFC Properties, Inc.
5. Election of Directors (including the Independent Director)
6. Election of Auditors and Fixing of their Remuneration
7. Consideration of such other business as may properly come before the meeting
8. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **19 February 2007** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. As per By-laws, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from **19 to 23 February 2007**, inclusive.

Makati City, 05 February 2007.

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Lifestyle goes to Bacolod /Section F

at HOME /Section H

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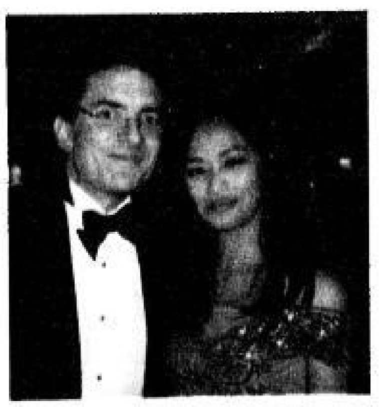

NEW Zealand Ambassador David Pine and charming wife Arti

INSTITUTO Cervantes director Jose Rodriguez with lovely artist wife Lulu

ANZA organizer Joanne Scoltock and Paul Symes

ANZA president Celina Maxwell and Richard Spence

MEN in disguise. Serafin Bugeja and Makati Shang's Jeremy Aniere

LIFESTYLE Asia couple Eliza and Bill Valtos

Sunset hotel gets new spirit

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

OUR BREATHTAKING SUNset is world-famous. Its magnificent, daily beauty is best seen from the new Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, ideally while sipping a piña colada at poolside.

The re-launch of this new, city resort-style, premiere hotel featured an artistic French evening of grand festivities, as the new owner, Accor Asia Pacific, formally announced the addition of Sofitel to its worldwide network. Three prime areas of the hotel were transformed into party venues for the night.

First, cocktails were served at the newly renovated lobby lounge, Le Bar, an innovative three-in-one concept: bistro, patisserie and music lounge. Influential guests from the business, political, diplomatic and social circles were then ushered into the Grand Plaza Ballroom for a five-course dinner and an amazing show.

> The re-launch of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza complements the new energy in Philippine tourism

A gastronomic menu of foie gras, lobster ravioli, sorbet of passion fruit, Angus beef and nougat praline parfait was served in-between performances, including an ingenious black theater performance by Power Dance and electrifying jazz music by international artists, Grammy Award-winner **Dianne Schuur** and **Janice Harrington**. This was truly Vegas-quality entertainment!

Somewhere between the sorbet and parfait, I arrived in my beaded **Oliver Tolentino** gown and was fortunate to find a seat beside elegant lady **Nedy Tantoco** of Store Specialists fame. We marveled at the table setting, featuring a glowing aquarium that changed colors with each course.

With such a top event, the only fitting emcee could be **Johnny Litton** himself. The presentation of the new uniforms, designed by talented fashion designer **Rajo Laurel**, who now also has a line of bed linens by Canadian, was an entertaining parade. The eye-catching uniforms have an elegant Filipiniana twist to match the hotel's new interiors.

Champagne and fireworks by the pool concluded the evening. On the way outdoors, I met the very effective Tourism Secretary, **Ace Durano**. The country's tourism rating has risen, thanks to the efforts of this Ace of Spades, the sort of trump card any president wants in her deck. It's encouraging to see something positive in the government that promotes not only the country's beauty but generates income for so many.

Rows of champagne-bearing ladies lined the path to the glittery stage atop the pool, where the gregarious, over-the-top Club Mwah performers danced to Broadway and movie hits. After what seemed a bottomless glass of champagne, the fireworks looked especially dazzling.

Australia-NZ ball

The Sofitel is already becoming Party Central. Soon after, the annual Grand Charity Ball of the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce transformed the Grand Plaza Ballroom into a golden Bollywood palace. Rajo Laurel made me a bejeweled ensemble suitable for a maharani and I really felt the part, looking at the elephant centerpieces and richly colored saris of the ball goers.

The organizers showed fantastic attention to detail: Even the waiters paraded in wearing turbans. Topping off the night once more were the Club Mwah dancers, showing off a different repertoire that focused on Indian dance. As usual, the costumes and wigs were mesmerizing and got the audience onto the dance floor.

This year's Charity Ball beneficiary is Hope Worldwide Philippines. This non-profit, charitable organization has been caring for needy Filipino children since 1993. Recently, it opened a center in Biñan, Laguna, that aids abused children. Hope Worldwide offers short- to medium-term residential care, treatment and placement to meet the holistic needs of children under its care.

Numerous generous sponsors gladly participated in this worthy cause, mixed along with having a nice celebration for the evening with friends. Among the key sponsors are Anzcham, Nestlé Philippines, Roche/Xenical and San Miguel Corp. Rustan's, too, has been a strong supporter of many charities and provided nice giveaways for the event. With so many new brands available in Rustan's, it continues to improve as a better and better place to shop.

Restos at Serendra

After I did my photo rounds at the Ball, I quickly headed out before dinner started. I opted for a dinner date with my husband **Dennis** and my 9-year-old **Annika**, at the very popular hotspot Serendra.

The restaurant mix at Serendra is a great combination of international fusion cuisine, specialty foods and dessert shops. That night, we tried Chef **Carlo Miguel**'s Mezzaluna Restaurant. Having a highly skilled Australia-trained chef on board, the food was predictably excellent, especially when combined with the extensive wine collection from Premium Wine Exchange. Making reservations by calling 8560718 are recommended, as it can get really full, especially on weekends.

Chef Carlo shared with us that he has lost 20 pounds from exercise and eating right. After months of working out at Fitness First and keeping to a healthy diet supervised by his nutritionist, he feels great. That's pretty difficult to do when you're surrounded with rich food and your restaurant is right next to one of my favorites, Cupcakes By Sonja.

There's a saying that one should never trust a thin chef. Well, how about a sexy one? Hardworking **Cecile Ysmael** of Thai at Silk (tel. 8560386-87) has so much passion … and also for Thai cooking, it seems. Cecile is there daily to oversee her well-organized staff and kitchen.

Also located at Serendra, Thai at Silk benefits from Cecile's focus on quality. Her numerous trips to Bangkok to handpick her spices and ingredients are all part of her labor of love. She even talks about it with so much excitement, excitedly breathless as she explained the nuances of creating a successful restaurant. If we can all be just as passionate about love as Cecile is about her cooking, this would indeed be a beautiful world.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

BOLLYWOOD ladies Shelly Sy, Rebecca Forrester, Rhonda Vandeworp, Vanessa Spier, ANZA Ball's Megan Douglas, Fiona Knox and Kylie Helliar

BOLLYWOOD gang Marissa Alejandro Lopa, Mela Bengzon, Mel Cojuangco and Rima Datvin

FLAMENCO friend Frey and Joseph Sullivan

SOFITEL Phil. Plaza PR ladies Mellissa Ledesma and Yasmine Hildalgo with Kathy Evatt of the ANZA Ball in the middle

THAI at Silk's sexy chef Cecile Ysmael

MEZZALUNA Restaurant chef Carlo Miguel (that's his family name, "Miguel")

INQUIRER Sunday Magazine publisher Leica Carpo between Philip Abadicio and Phil. Plaza Holdings president Oscar Salvacion

PHILWEB president Dennis Valdes, Alliance Francaise's Olivier Dintinger and renowned sculptor Ed Castrillo

CLUB Mwah dancers entertain the **ANZA/ANZCHAM** guests with a dramatic Bollywood number.

SOFITEL Philippine Plaza's GM Bernd Schneider, French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel and Tourism Assistant Secretary Cynthia Carreon

TOURISM consultant Ram Antonio, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, Sea Princess, Senator Dick Gordon, Michael Issenberg and Japan Airlines GM Toshiro Morita

GIRLIE Rodis, Susan Joven and Sofitel's executive assistant manager Mo Ihsan

SOFITEL Phil. Plaza's Director of Marketing Rose Libongco, Patrick Lee, Patrick Basset and Michael Issenberg of Accor Asia Pacific

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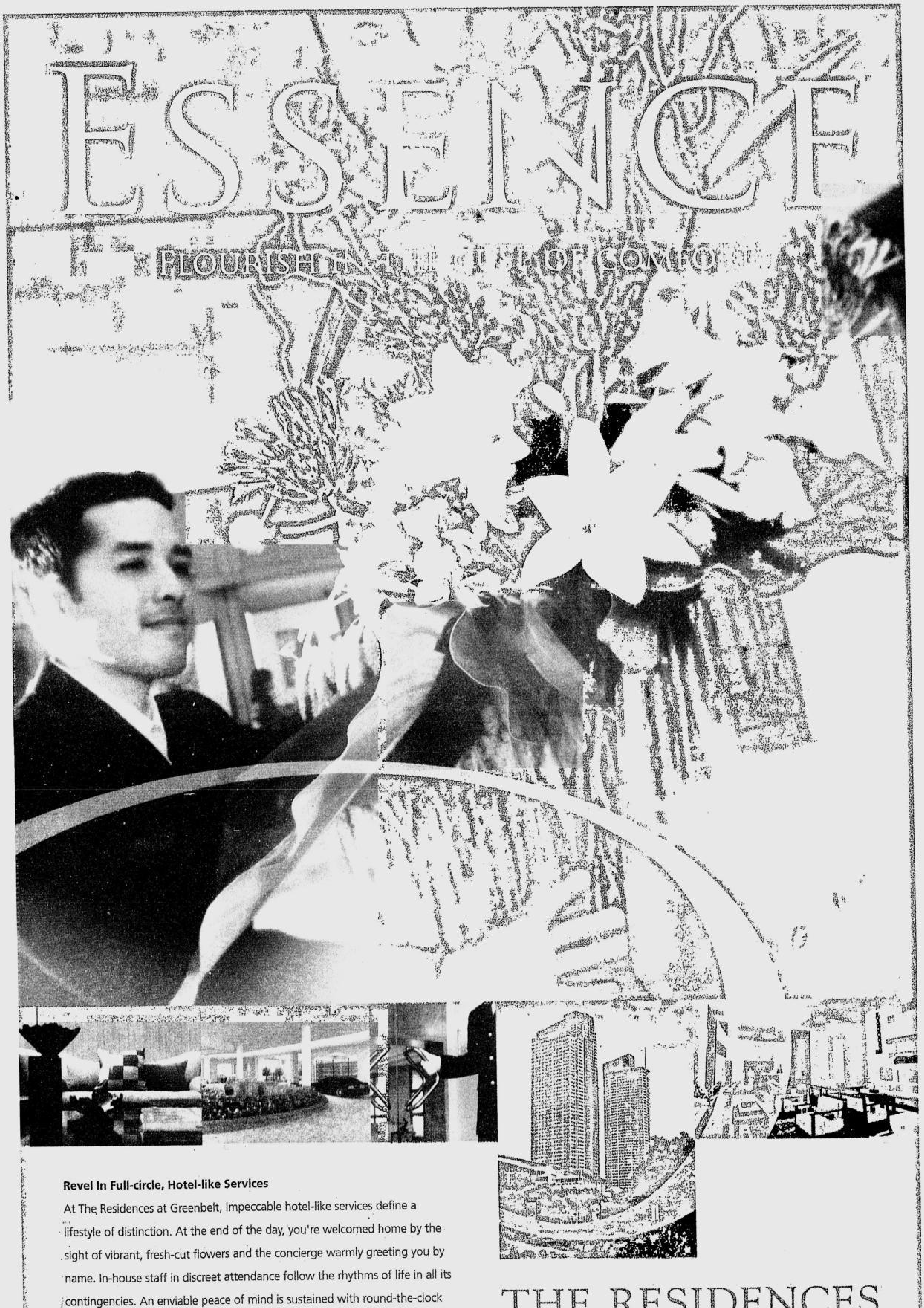

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Sisters act

FORMAL WEAR FOR LITTLE GIRLS AND teens adorned with dainty flowers, laces, ribbon trimmings, and bubble hemlines is highly recommended for graduation ceremonies.

Topnotch women's formal line 22BC and its sister brand, children's formal line Salsa, have introduced their graduation collection.

They also offer little sister-big sister tandem outfits to cater to sisters who are doing the graduation march this year.

22BC is exclusively available at the SM Boutique Square of SM Department Store while Salsa is available at the children's section of SM Department Stores.

PHOTOGRAPHY: KEN GO
STYLING AND MAKEUP: CHERRY PACHECO-UY
MODELS : STEPHANIE AFZELIUS (CALCARRIES INT'L)
AND ISABELLA MAÑOSA-TANJUTCO

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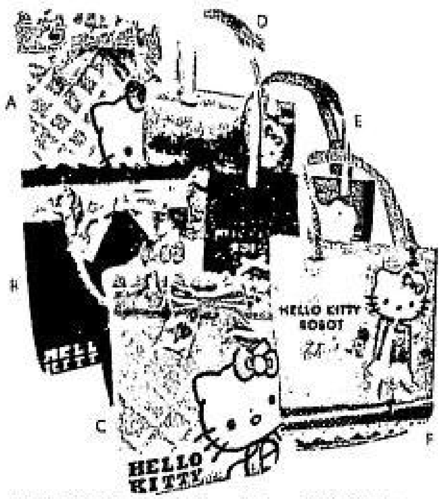
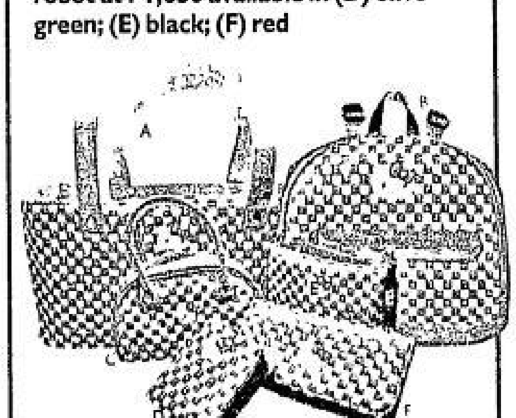
HELLO Kitty perfume: (A) shoulder tote bag; (B) mini baguette; (C) friends journal; (D) vinyl wallet; (E) D-cut mirror compact; (F) hair brush; (G) wristwatch

HELLO Kitty fashion watch (pink), P2,750



HELLO Kitty fashion totes. Mini tote bag: ribbon at P1,650 available in (A) gray; (b) black; (C) pink. Mini tote bag: robot at P1,650 available in (D) olive green; (E) black; (F) red



HELLO Kitty checkered leather bags: (A) shoulder tote bag (P1,995); (B) backpack (P1,795); (C) mini Boston bag (P995); (D) wallet (P995); (E) shoulder handbag (P895); (F) large wallet (P1,195)

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

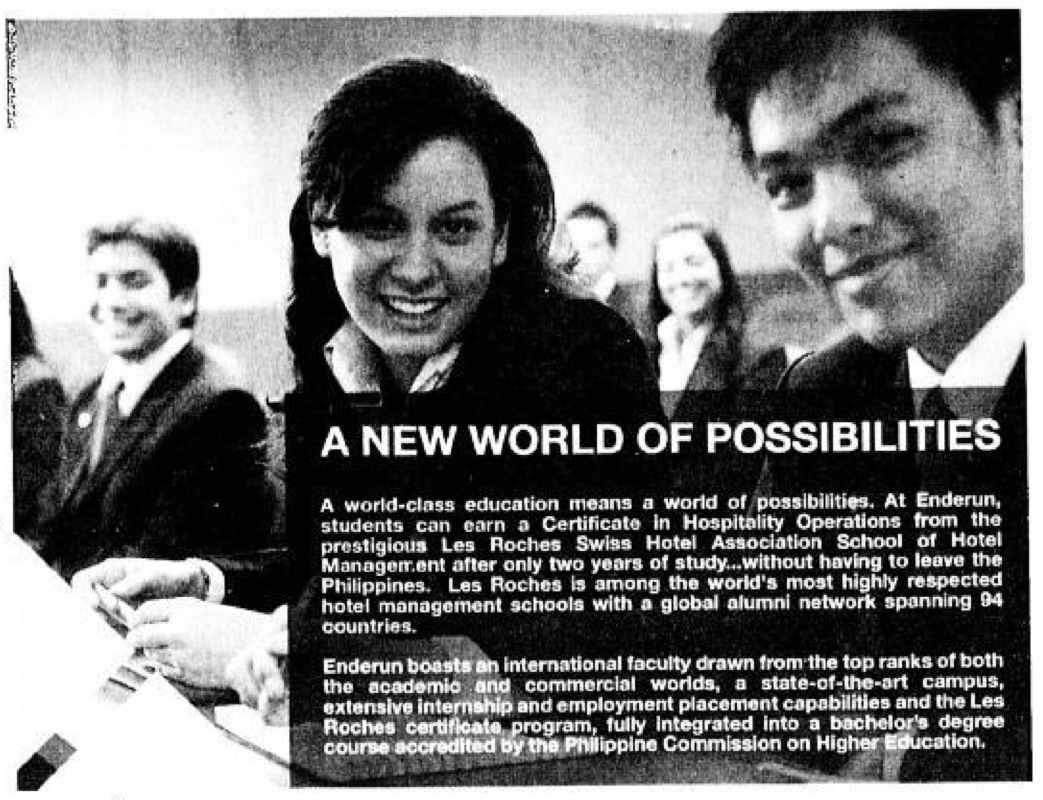
PHOTOS: RODEL ROTONI

PLAYTIME
By the staff

BIR COMMISSIONER
JOSE MARIO BUÑAG

The taxman cometh

Story on page D2



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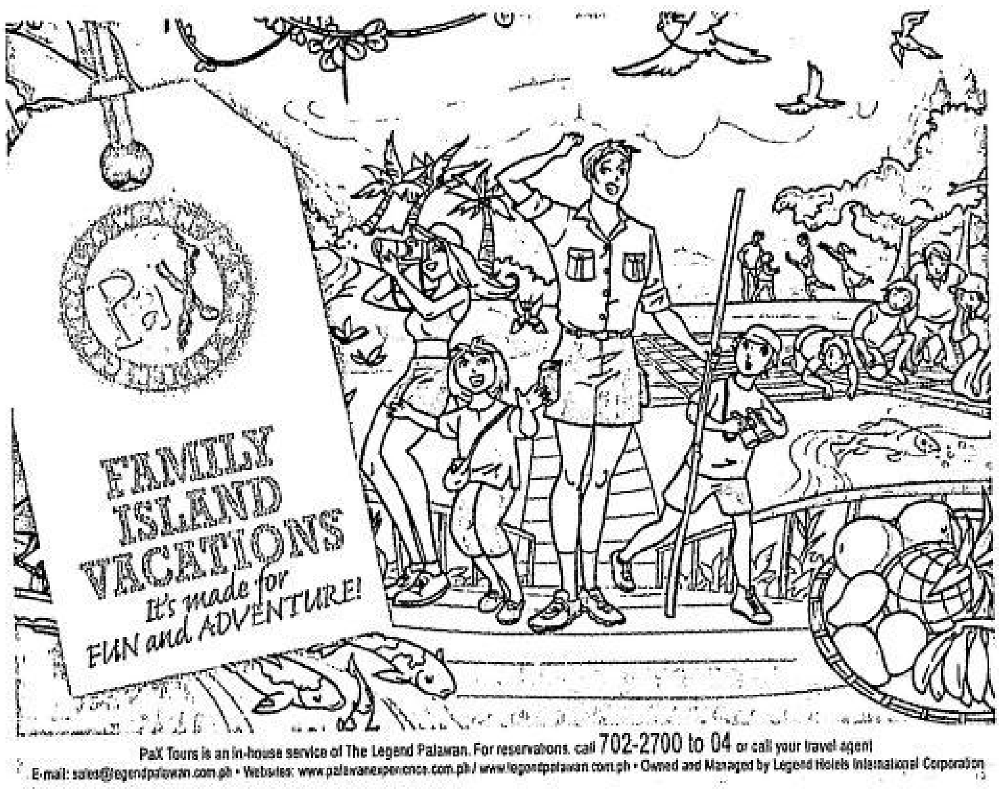
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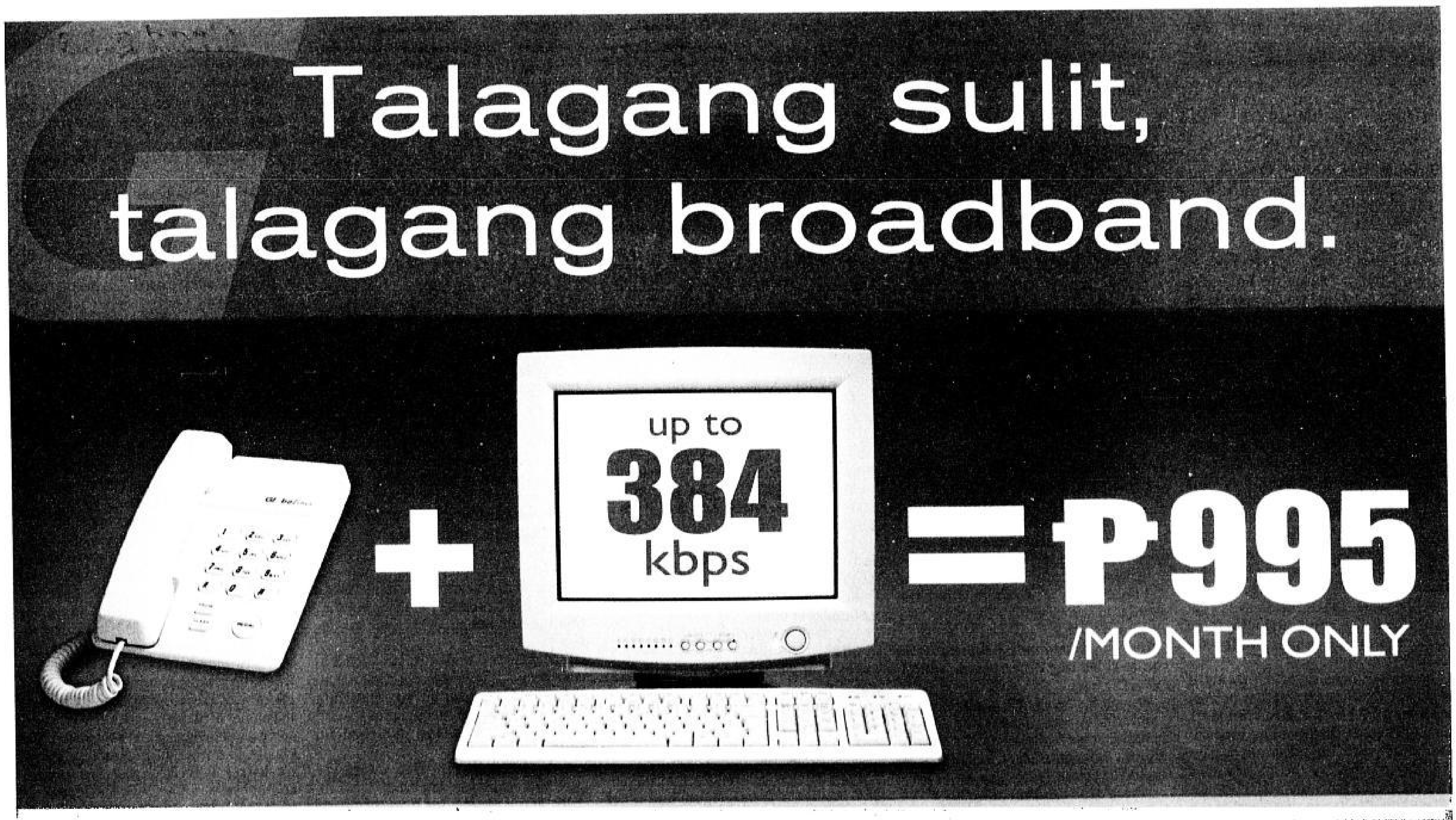

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So the BIR has to rely on the innate goodness of men.
Yes, people pay voluntarily.
So it's a choice?
Tax is not really a choice, it's an obligation because ... The only source of funding of the government is tax

The taxman cometh

WHY WOULD A BAR topnotcher, trained at the well-known New York University and with a successful private law practice, join the government? The cynical would say the answer is obvious, particularly if the job is to head the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

But Jose Mario Buñag says he simply wants to give back to the government because it has given him a place where he can work and live in peace. "It is also my answer to St. Peter when he asks me, 'What did you do?' when I get there," he says.

Is it right to say you are OIC (officer in charge) commissioner?

No, it has already been corrected. I was OIC only because the President wanted the incumbent secretary of finance to confirm that I was also his choice because she said the two of us should be able to work together. Full-time *na ako na* commissioner since October.

***Kahit hindi mo na*-meet *ang* target? (Laughter)**

The target is a very tricky issue. (Laughter) Bank deposits affect tax collection. When you deposit your money in the bank, the bank gives interest, so you will have to pay withholding tax. The interest the bank pays on your deposit will be a big part of the BIR collection. This is a regular monthly collection from the bank.

Inflation is also a key. The price of goods depends on inflation rates. If the inflation rate is high, prices of goods are high. The VAT is based on the price of goods. If prices are high, we collect more. If prices are low, we collect less.

People say we missed the target. But maybe the target isn't what it is supposed to be. In 2006, the inflation rate was lower than what was programmed, so we failed to collect P26 billion. So if you say that the target was P675 billion and you deduct P26 billion, our real target was only P649 billion. We collected P652 billion so we really kept the figure up. But we are being punished for that. (Laughs)

We collected more than the target and people should be getting cash reward, but people are not getting any cash rewards because we didn't collect more than P675 billion. But even that amount includes P49 billion, which we are supposed to collect whenever the Bureau of Treasury issues T bills. It has to issue them because the collection is not enough. Just like in a household, if the collection is not enough for your needs, you have to borrow.

The entity in charge of borrowing is the Bureau of Treasury, and they borrow by issuing T bills or T bonds. With the T bills and T bonds, there are interest components or yield. The government pays for its borrowings. For the interest rates in a year, the treasury deducts a 30-percent withholding tax so that's part of the P49 billion.

In 2006, the government included the P49 billion to be collected from the Office of the Treasury ... that was what they projected. And so that's what the government needed, *ang daming* programs *ng gobyerno* [and part of the financing] comes from tax collections, partly from local borrowings by issuing T bills.

With tax collection strong in 2006, they had less reason to borrow. You don't borrow when you don't need to. Why should you pay interest when you don't need to pay interest?

So that was what happened in 2006. There was good tax collections so there was no interest to borrow, but in turn we suffered from that. (Laughter) We are victims of our own success.

For this year, what is the target?

The projection is P6.7 trillion GDP, which is P700 billion more than last year's. With the projected P6.7 trillion GDP in 2007, they projected P730 billion in BIR collection.

Isn't one aspect of that incentive program [cash rewards] to eliminate corruption? If your guys don't get the rewards, how are you going to stop graft and corruption?

That's a good question. As you can see, the gross rate for 2005-2006 on BIR operations alone was about 32 percent. We went up from P5.42 billion in 2005 to P6.19 billion. Now this tremendous growth rate could not have been achieved unless there was a decrease in the corruption.

It is said for every peso a taxman collects, only 20 centavos goes to the government and 80 goes to him. (Laughter) The ideal, of course, is 100 to the government, zero for him ... But it cannot be done overnight. Not only the BIR but the whole society must change its attitude toward corruption and illegally acquired wealth.

The ideal thing, if you ask me, is to set up the BIR like a BSP [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas]. I've mentioned it before—to do an overhaul along those lines and upgrade the salary of people so they will not be tempted ... And before businessmen pirate our people. Among the departments of the bureau, the IT group is the one shrinking. I was also surprised that when I came, there were around 5,000 taxmen, and now there are only 2,900 all over the country.

What's the ideal number?

We don't know yet. The latest organizational chart of the BIR, I think, they projected a total of 13,000 BIR employees but we had only 11,800 in 2001. And the target then was, I think, P388 billion. The target now is a lot higher but we still have 11,000 people. (Laughter)

How is the pay?

Do you collect a lot from 168 Mall? (Laughter)

We do, but I think we should be able to collect more. (Laughter) ... By and large, the 168 vendor is a Chinese tourist who brings in a lot of goods to sell, gets a space in 168 for three months, returns to China, and comes back here. So it's really an immigration problem. And Bureau of Customs

Mababa, mababa, government pay.

Shouldn't a BIR examiner be a CPA (certified public accountant)?

Preferably. You cannot come in and say you want to be a revenue district officer unless you are a CPA or a lawyer with at least 18 units of Accounting. But lawyers, for instance, get P10,000 a month [at BIR]. How can you respect yourself? (Laughter)

Senator [Alfredo] Lim volunteered to sponsor a separate bill for the BIR so this Standardization 3 would have a more realistic approach.

How do you entice people to join you in collecting other people's money?

You put it so elegantly. (Laughs) I ask people if they want to serve the government. What we really do is not to recruit attorney 1 but attorney 3. P18,000 *na* so it could be better.

Where's the fulfillment in that?

Service to the government. Believe it or not, some people want to serve the government and their fellow countrymen. (Laughter) The other thing is it's a good training ground. And then you can name your price when you go to the private sector.

What's the percentage of Filipinos who pay taxes? Is it true that only those subject to withholding tax pay?

I think 98 percent of the tax is "captured."

How about those who don't have withholding tax?

Yan ang problema, the hard-to-tax sector... the accountants, lawyers, doctors... We're really concentrating on this group. *Yung mga artista hindi nakakalusot* because of the withholding system. There has to be better use of the withholding system.

So if there is no withholding tax you have no way of knowing and collecting money.

We track down others, like doctors, lawyers and accountants, through the bank. *Mga artista din!*

***Si* Judy Ann! (Laughter)**

Yes, celebrities, too.

When do you start paying tax? How much should you be earning?

When you're earning only P60,000 net a year, you don't even have to file a return.

Do you expect people to say, "Oh, I earned more than P60,000 this year so I have to pay tax?"

We will know when we examine the books of the company that paid the wage. If it is a deductible item, they have to have the correct amount in their books, how much they paid.

Has anyone been sent to prison here for tax evasion?

Meron yata pero small fry. (Laughter)

How about Lucio Tan? (Laughter)

Wala na. Because the Supreme Court already ruled... that the municipal trial court should try the case, *nandun na yung kaso, sa* Marikina. Criminal case *yun eh*, so it has to be tried in the place where the crime was committed. In the last sentence of that decision, the court ruled that the facts on which the tax liability could be based did not exist. In other words, the evidence did not support facts ... [so, in effect] the judge said in the decision, there was no factual basis to go after this guy.

How do you tax a Lucio Tan anyway? Is Mr. Tan more careful now?

We think so, we think so. (Laughter) He pays a substantial amount. I cannot tell you how much but I can tell you he pays a substantial amount, in total for the group—Allied Bank, Fortune, Asia Brewery.

Is the general reluctance to pay taxes universal, or is it unique to Filipinos?

Let me put it this way. Based on the percentage of taxes [paid in relation] to GDP, we're very low compared to Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore. Developed countries, like Sweden, have rates as high as 30-40 of GDP. Malaysia, for instance, and Indonesia register as high as 18-22 percent of GDP. We, I think, have 12 percent. And the bulk of what we collect ... is voluntary compliance, what people voluntarily pay.

So the BIR has to rely on the innate goodness of men.

Yes, people pay voluntarily.

So it's a choice?

Tax is not really a choice, it's an obligation, because you have to support the government that you have. (Laughter) The only source of funding of the government is tax.

How come [our rate is] low?

It's a subject for maybe anthropologists (Laughter), sociologists and other people. First of all, you have to understand even the United States and Australia, where people are supposed to be disciplined, still have fraud cases.

Is there a study or a theory on that?

Wala nga, eh. My favorite theory, apart from the fact that people generally don't want to pay, is they can use the money. (Laughter) The lower the tax, the easier it is to collect. You can part with your money ... right away. If it's a big amount, that's when it starts to hurt. (Laughter) The theory is [this is because of our] colonial experience. When we were under Spain and there was a funding gap, tax payment became a heavy responsibility.

Do you think this general reluctance is because people think they are not getting their taxes' worth?

Maybe, but you have to analyze it ... The bulk of taxes is not wasted, just a portion. How else can we pay policemen, firemen, teachers, government employees and other government expenses?

Does BIR connect with other agencies regarding where the money should go?

Yes, but we don't spend the money, we just collect. (Laughter)

Have Filipinos always been reluctant to pay taxes?

Siguro naman hindi. Nung una, when we became independent, we were really *ganado*. But then we became disillusioned and things became bad. We started borrowing a lot and that's when the issues started to come up. That's why we have this target; other tax agencies do not have targets.

Even in developing countries?

Even in Hong Kong, Malaysia ... they don't have targets. It is only because we have a deficit and have to solve the deficit. Once the deficit is manageable, and we hope that it would be by, say, 2008, no more target.

How does one know what is deductible or not?

The code enumerates them but, like any provision of law, there are two sides ... so it's best to resolve issues one by one as they come up ... There's still a lot of gray areas, that's why there are still tax lawyers to fix provisions and/or what they call loopholes in the law. And there's no law without loopholes.

How do you ensure the people you hire are honest? Do they undergo exams or tests?

(Laughs) We give them a psychological test, we give them an IQ test. They go through a lot of tests.

So they get corrupted on the job? (Laughter)

I couldn't say. I couldn't say.

Is there a moral code for taxmen? (Laughter)

We have some sort of a credo of the Department of Finance written by [former Finance] Secretary [Jesus] Estanislao.

What does it say?

It says we are public servants, we should take each day to improve a little, the way we work, the way we are. We take the lead in serving our country, thinking of our selves last, thinking of others first.

Do you recite it daily?

We recite it every Monday morning. (Laughs)

Do you give incentives?

You know, in the government, you can't spend money unless the budget authorizes you. So, unless you are authorized to give incentives ... Of course, we give them rewards, they get promoted or they get a better position. They work in Manila instead of being assigned in the province.

But when they see a lot of money they might be tempted, it's very difficult.

We're only human, *kami ay tao lamang*. But, you know, we don't handle money at all. All the money, except for a small percentage, goes to the banks directly.

But there are some taxes collected by what you call revenue-collection agents and *d'yan nagkakaron ng maraming kalokohan, kasi* they get tempted.

How are they being punished for that?

Sometimes even if they return the money, they still get penalized.

Do you collect a lot from Divisoria or 168 Mall? (Laughter)

We do, but I think we should be able to collect more. (Laughter) If people were to declare their true incomes everywhere, we should really be able to collect more. In fact, in a Cabinet meeting, one of the decisions was to direct the BIR to collect more from 168.

We spent some time studying 168 Mall. By and large, the 168 vendor is a Chinese tourist who brings in a lot of goods to sell, gets a space in 168 for three months, returns to China, and comes back here. So it's really an immigration problem. And Bureau of Customs.

Do you coordinate with other agencies?

We confer with Customs *kasi pareho kaming sa* Department of Finance, but not with Immigration. That's what we lack, according to our consultant.

In the US, for instance, they are coordinated ... When they go after somebody or a business, the justice department, IRS (Internal Revenue Service), the Customs, firearms division, etc. are all involved and all cooperating. So *walang lusot. Tayo, kanya-kanya eh.*

But we will do that. I'll review how it's done in the US so I can propose it.

And even use non-payment of taxes to jail criminals! Is there a reward for informing?

There is in the Philippines now.

***Ang magandang* reward, tax-free for life! (Laughter) What levels of business are supposed to issue receipts. *Sari-sari* stores don't issue receipts, for example.**

All are supposed to.

Including *sari-sari* stores?

Yes, under the code, transactions of P25 or more require receipts.

How do you figure out *kung magkanong babayaran nila?*

Let me put it this way, when you apply for a license you have to declare your capital. So you have a municipal tax and a national tax. The municipal is there because they know you, the local town mayor knows you. You have a sari-sari store. They would know how much you are making in a year. The municipal tax for the year is based on your previous year's gross.

Many *sari-sari* stores are not paying VAT, so they pay a percentage tax of 3 percent instead of the VAT.

But how could the municipal government know how much you are earning?

They should know. They should know.

They have to declare.

Depende pa rin kung how much they want to declare. But they can compare. *Kunwari yung sari-sari* store *dito, eto diniclare, sa kabilang kanto ganon lang.*

You mean *sari-sari* stores have to pay taxes?

They do, they do. (Laughs) When you have a business you have to pay your taxes.

So *'pag* P25 and above, you have to issue a receipt?

Maybe we really should clarify. If it's a sale of goods, an invoice is enough. People are given an invoice but they demand a receipt. But, really, if it's a sale of goods, invoice is enough.

If it's a sale of services—restaurants, doctors—you get a receipt not an invoice.

So if you go to a hardware and you buy all sorts of things, an invoice will be enough. But if you go to a restaurant, they have to issue a receipt. Another question is the tape receipt from cash registers. A lot of people still ask for an official receipt.

If they see on the tape the name of the establishment, address, date, registration number and the words "This is an official receipt" or "This serves as an official receipt," that should be enough.

Is it true Kris Aquino is the No. 1 taxpayer among celebrities?

She's one of the top taxpayers in Quezon City, together with Manny Pacquiao. Only in Quezon City. Nationwide, we have to tally that. But, under the tax amnesty bill that is now pending, we would be given the authority, just like in the time of President Marcos, to publish the names of all taxpayers, their gross income and how much taxes they paid. We plan to do it from the highest to the lowest to see who is paying how much. *Marami namang nagbabayad talaga ng malaki*. But you really have to look.

Sometimes when we feature nice homes, the owners do not want to be identified because they say the BIR man will come knocking on their door afterward.

That's right. That's one of our focus, properties, but that's painstaking work. It's not easy to establish.

What is the process?

If you think somebody is not paying the right amount of taxes, first you get the income tax return to find out how much he's paying. If he has a big property in Batangas, you go to Batangas, check the value, the income tax return, and then you get what you call a letter of authority to ask the taxpayer to present to you the books of his accounts and other documents.

Did you have a personal goal when you started in the BIR?

I thought I would minimize the graft and corruption in the bureau and improve its image and collect a little bit more for the government than what was collected before.

So what's your scorecard now?

So far, so good. In 2005, when I came

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The taxman cometh

From page D2

in, it was a 15-percent gross rate and in 2005-2006, *nagka*-increase. *Swerte nang maka*-10 percent.

How about the graft and corruption?

Since the collection is improving, there must have been some success in the graft and corruption area. And there is diligence in working with the Presidential Anti-graft Commission and the Ombudsman. If they want a report, we give them report. That's why we were rated high. There was a time when were No. 2 in graft.

The big thing we want to do in the BIR this year is full computerization ... we are ready to do it with the Millennium money of President (George W.) Bush, the United States Agency for International Development and the World Bank loan we are getting.

We had a $25 million loan *yata* before to computerize the BIR head office. We were able to computerize only 42 out of 115 district offices.

Would this help in alleviating corruption?

Hopefully (things) become transparent and *may* data *talaga eh*. I keep telling myself that it would be difficult to cheat because you would leave a paper trail somewhere.

> Pay your taxes correctly, always ask for a receipt and report anybody suspicious

Can you still go online and apply for TIN (tax information number)?

You cannot anymore. That's what we want to do this year, to clean up the database *kasi* you know *yung dating* TAN, tax account number, naging TIN. It was not computerized completely, people kept getting TANs. *Nakalimutan mo yung dati mong* TAN or *nawala, kukuha ka naman ng bago*!

Ganon din ang TIN!

No, no. The number cannot be used anymore. There's only a one-time TIN. It's indicated in the number, it's a one-time TIN. Some people living in the US, they are citizens there, but they inherited a piece of land here, they have to pay taxes using that one-time tin.

So how would you run after those people?

With difficulty! (Laughter) That's why were tax-mapping every property in the region.

How about the Premyo sa Resibo promo? How does it help?

You get the data *di ba*? You text the TIN and the receipt number. So you put the data and the TIN is verified, the receipt number is verified. A lot of receipts that were sent by text were fake! (Laughter) We're going after them. It takes time but it's being done.

So is it cost-effective? *Kasi* you're giving away P1 million a week as price?

Actually that doesn't come from us, it comes from PAGCOR.

So how many establishments have you discovered are not issuing receipts?

One time it was reported that 88,000 of receipts were fake. I don't know how many establishments they are. Field people are verifying the place and writing them letters telling them the receipts were fake. *Meron ding silang* TIN and everything. *Yung* receipts *nila* are BIR-certified but still fake. (Laughs)

It's supposed to encourage people to get receipts to get a raffle ticket and win P1 million. But we know we have to do a little more than that.

What's the punishment for fake receipts?

Well, I think P25,000 and the business can be closed, too.

Why did you decide to leave private practice? You came from a really, really big law firm.

Yeah, I know. There comes a time when you really think about it and say government needs a lot. You may not realize it but the government, no matter how bad you think it is, has given you a place where you can work and live in peace. You can go from your house to your office and not be bothered. Unlike in other countries ... you stop in a traffic light and somebody will open your trunk with a crowbar. I thought, I've been enjoying being in this government and living a comfortable life, it's time to pay back and give a little to the Filipino people. It is also my answer when St. Peter asks me 'What did you do?' when I get there. (Laughter)

Were you into taxation law? What was your field?

I was really into corporate. I got a scholarship, I placed second in the '68 bar and was cum laude. I had to support myself after college so I taught philosophy. And took up law at the Ateneo. I also got a fellowship in NYU (New York University) which was the leading school in tax. It had a program for foreign lawyers, but since I spoke English well I was allowed to take courses with the Americans. And I took up tax courses. NYU is the leading school for taxes, even ahead of Harvard and Columbia.

Why did you come back? (Laughter)

Some people like it here. (Laughter) I tell you a story. I won't mention his name. He was a leading Filipino luminary who went up to the Supreme Court, co-authored a book with a leading authority in the field. He was from a very prestigious university, Ivy League. So he's in the faculty housing (where) all law school teachers stay. He told me the reason he came back. For a couple of Saturdays, a party was held there but his daughter was not invited.

You know what it's like in a foreign country. You can still be discriminated against after a couple of generations. You will always be second class. But what (happens) when you open a law office in New York, for instance, you get Filipinos. Or you get other minorities like Hispanics.

What do you do for leisure?

I play golf on Saturdays .

***Baka ma*-lifestyle check kayo. (Laughter)**

Hindi naman. (Laughter) I was playing golf even before I joined the government.

What else is taxed besides income, land, estate?

Everything is supposed to be taxed.

When is the date for filing taxes?

April 16, 15 is Sunday.

Why is it in April?

Because normally, businesses end their year on Dec. 31. Three months to audit, then pay tax.

Do you have plans to run for an elective position?

No more. (Laughs) In 1998 I ran for congressman in Quezon. I pushed through but it was half-hearted. My father and grandfather were politicians but I don't think it's in my blood. (Laughter) Some people become accountants, some people become politicians ...

And some people become taxmen! (Laughter) Any parting words for the readers?

Pay your taxes correctly, always ask for a receipt and report anybody suspicious.

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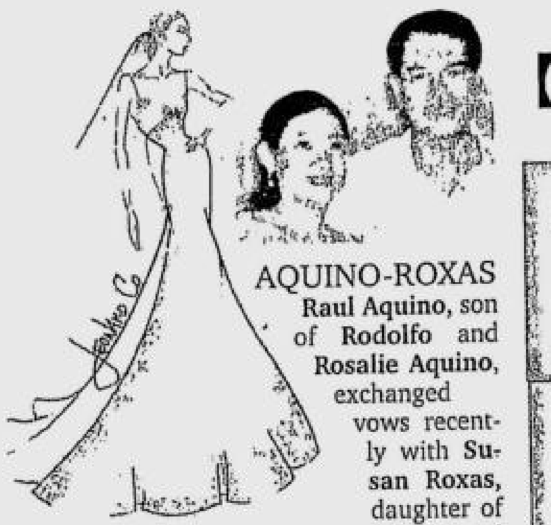
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



AQUINO-ROXAS

Raul Aquino, son of **Rodolfo** and **Rosalie Aquino**, exchanged vows recently with **Susan Roxas**, daughter of **Peter** and **Glory Roxas**, at Renaissance New World Hotel. The bride wore a **Leonard Co** creation of metallic white bright stretch sateen with a sweetheart bustier and back chiffon insertion to accentuate the train beaded in cut-glass crystals and Swarovski stones.

QUILLAMOR-REYES

Mark Angelo Quillamor, son of Mr and Ms **Mariano Quillamor Jr.**, will wed **Joan Krissina Reyes**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Pablo Reyes III**, today, at St. Joseph the Patriarch Sanctuario de San José, Greenhills. Reception will follow at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental in Makati.

NAVARRO-INGUILLO

Rodway Padon Navarro, son of **Roberto** and **Lialyn Navarro**, will wed **Melanie Judith Inguillo**, daughter of **Renato** and **Mamerta Inguillo**, on March 31, at the Venetian Resort Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Reception will follow at the Mandalay Bay Hotel and Resort.

CRUZ-SANTOS

John Conrad A. Cruz and **Ma. Katherine J. Santos** will tie the knot on March 31 at Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati. Reception will follow at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

FRANCISCO-LIWAG

Tobias Hale Francisco, a master sergeant in the United States Air Force and son of **Emiliano Francisco** (deceased) and **Virginia Hale**, and **Maria Lourdes Mallari Liwag**, an obstetrician-gynecologist and daughter of lawyer **Lorenzo Liwag** (deceased) and **Norma Mallari**, will renew their vows at San Agustin Church, 6:15 p.m., today. Reception will follow at the Sofia Garden in Patio Victoria, Intramuros. They were married in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA, in December.

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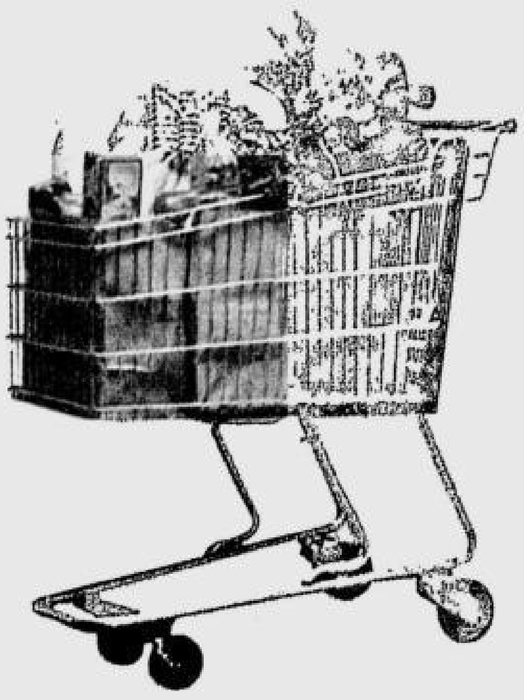

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GARCIA-OOI NUPTIALS

Everything as planned

By Gina B. Go
Contributor

LAST YEAR WAS AN AUSPICIOUS YEAR FOR US as it marked the first wedding in the third generation of our family. Not that it caught any of us by surprise especially since our nephew, the groom, was already of legal age. The anticipation and the preparation brought us all a lot of excitement. Hopefully there is enough steam left for the remaining 26 nephews and nieces who, presumably, will also get married in the coming years (the youngest of our mother's grandchildren is only two years old).

The groom's mom, our sister, plus his aunts in the Philippines had an inkling of what was to come. You see, our nephew José Carlo was known to be a little OC (obsessive compulsive).

His room in their house in Melbourne, Australia—where the family moved 19 years ago—is spotless, even with its white carpeting and bedding. His magazines cannot be touched by anyone. They are expected to remain creaseless even after reading. And, even though they are close, his two younger brothers would not dare borrow clothes from him for fear of soiling or messing them up.

So when Carlo took Phylice Ooi, a Malaysian Chinese whom he met in the university, on a holiday in the Philippines in Christmas 2005, we knew plans were underway. Carlo had to see for himself how his girlfriend would react to his big, rowdy but warm and close-knit extended family in Manila. At the same time, he wanted to see how his grandmother, aunts, uncles and cousins in the Philippines would welcome Phylice.

That short stay proved fruitful as he was convinced that an interracial marriage could work. So, in February, his mom e-mailed everyone about the engagement.

The wedding was set for Nov. 25, 2006, in Melbourne, where the couple had decided to live.

To further bring home the point about Carlo's need to be in control, he and Phylice handled almost every detail of the wedding themselves.

They scouted for, and ultimately found, a beautiful vineyard overlooking the bay as venue for their exchange of vows. They fell so in love with the Morning Star vineyard resort in the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria, they took the only open slot even though it meant they would have to exchange vows at 1 p.m. in the vineyard's garden and host their wedding reception at 6 p.m. at the nice fine-dining restaurant of the Southern Golf Club nearer the city.

While many engaged couples complained about their parents forcing sponsors and guests on them, Carlo and Phylice engaged only the people they wanted to involve—from the pastor who presided over the ceremony to the *ninongs* and *ninangs* down to the last person on the guest list. They even had to okay the flower arrangements.

The night before the wedding, Carlo prepared his speech and chose the 10 songs he would like to dance to with his bride at the reception. And that was after assisting in preparing the souvenirs and putting together the wedding program.

The only thing the groom could not control was the weather. It drizzled after the wedding rites in the garden, but only a little—just heaven's way, I guess, of showing Carlo who was really running the show.

But, just like the architect that he is, Carlo had a blueprint for what to do in case it rained. Guests were promptly led to a wonderful room with a fireplace and were served coffee, tea and tarts.

In the end, all the couple's hard work paid off. Carlo and Phylice had a beautiful, intimate wedding where everybody had fun.

Everyone in the family thought Carlo was giddy on his wedding night. To me, he looked extremely happy that everything went according to plan. He was deeply appreciative of the guests, especially those who traveled far from the Philippines and Malaysia, who celebrated with them.

I thought Carlo just could not contain the excitement of starting his married life with the woman with whom he obviously had been head-over-heels in love.

Everything after that evening was anticlimactic for the couple, no matter how hectic. They traveled to Singapore and Malaysia for reception parties organized by family and friends before finally coming to the Philippines around Christmastime for a simple and relaxed but equally festive celebration.

LOVE VOWS heard through the grapevine. José Carlo Garcia places the ring in Phylice Ooi's finger

It was as much an OC's wedding as an Aussie wedding

BRIDESMAIDS in their champagne and brown dresses

FAMILY PORTRAIT. The groom's brothers Paolo and Jobim, parents José and May Garcia, the newlyweds, the bride's parents Mei and Bak Heng Ooi, sisters Wenny and Vin, and brothers Kevin and KC

ALL THE WAY from RP, the groom's uncles Joel and Conrad Banal flanking their sisters Dang Binghay, Chelo Formoso, May Garcia, Gina Go and Honey Huertas

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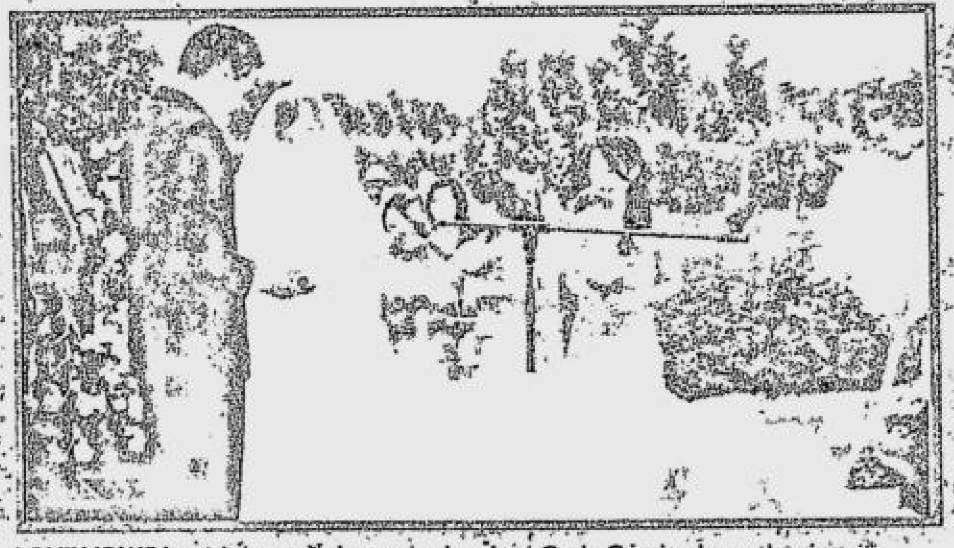
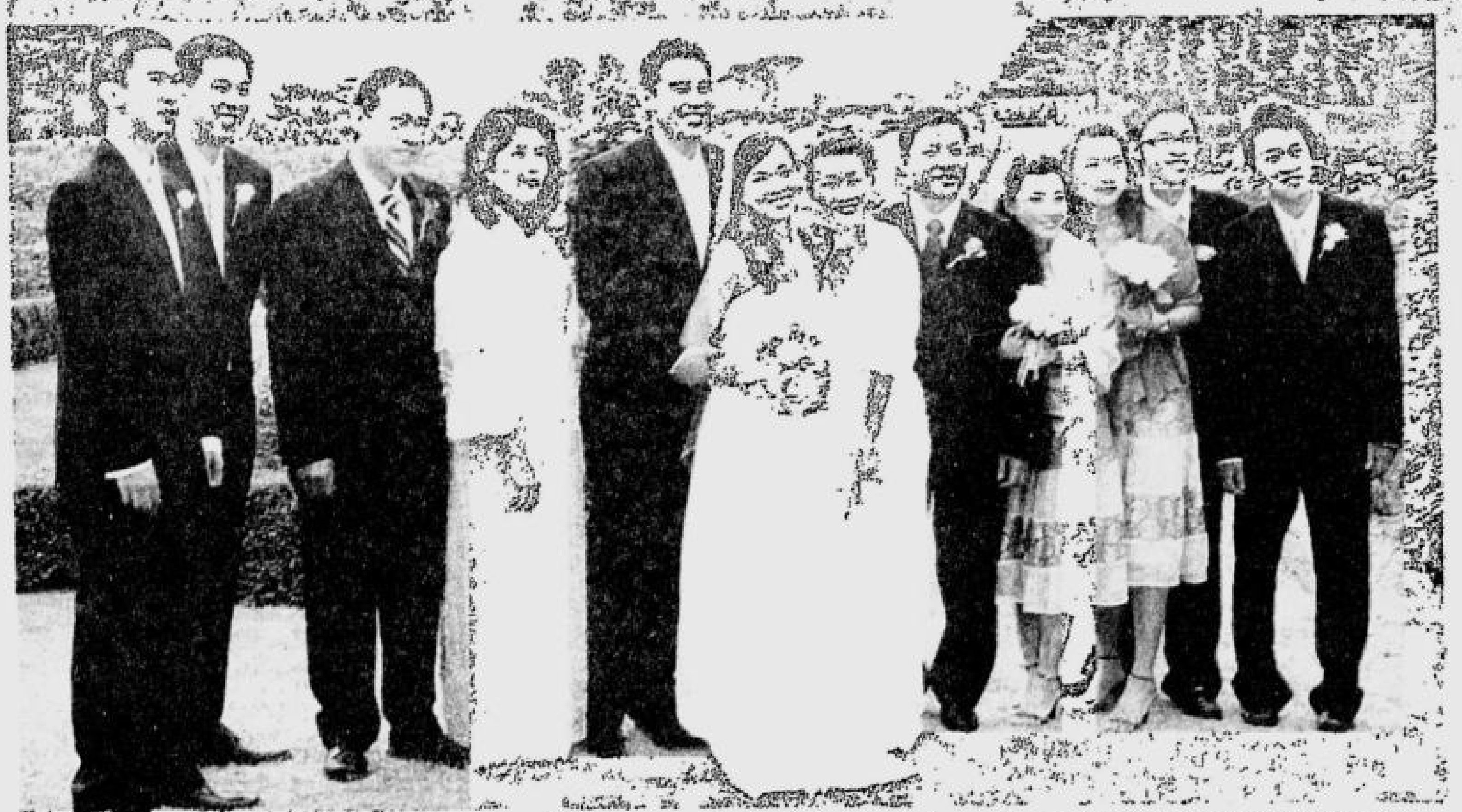


LOVE VOWS heard through the grapevine. José Carlo Garcia places the ring in Phylice Ooi's finger.

BRIDESMAIDS in their champagne and brown dresses



FAMILY PORTRAIT. The groom's brothers Paolo and Jobim, parents José and May Garcia, the newlyweds, the bride's parents Mei and Bak Heng Ooi, sisters Wenny and Vin, and brothers Kevin and KC

ALL THE WAY from RP, the groom's uncles Joel and Conrad Banal flanking their sisters Dang Binghay, Chelo Formoso, May Garcia, Gina Go and Honey Huertas

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Germany's 'queen' intercedes for healing

MOONYEEN RETIZOS-SINGSON, WRITER and wife of former Central Bank governor Gabriel Singson, credits her remission from stage four cancer of the colon and liver to the intercession of Our Mother Thrice Admirable Queen of Schoenstatt, venerated in Vallendar, Germany; the United States, Australia and now Talisay, Cebu.

The devotion to Mary under this title was given to Moonyeen by Maite Gallego Zaldarriaga, managing director and head of the ING Private Bank. Later, Maite also gave Moonyeen prayers to St. Peregrine, the cancer saint.

Relatively unknown in the Philippines, Mary Queen of Schoenstatt is thrice admirable because she is the Mother of God, Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed.

I learned about the devotion from international concert pianist Leonor Kilayko who went to Vallendar to visit Mary's shrine and the tomb of Fr. Joseph Kentenich, founder of the devotion.

Moonyeen also prayed to St. Josemaria Escriva and St. Therese of the Child Jesus who gave her signs showing which doctor to rely on and where to have the treatment.

Field of faith

Moonyeen's bout with cancer since 2003 inspired the building of a sanctuary in her family's farm in Calauan, Laguna.

It is a three-hectare coconut-*lanzones* farm that Moonyeen's paternal grandfather left to her father, the late lawyer-writer Isidro L. Retizos.

The idea of building a sanctuary that would be called Field of Faith was inspired by a rural area in Toronto, Canada, where people gathered to pray before rough wooden Stations of the Cross nailed to trees.

Michotte Retizos de la Costa, Moonyeen's sister, made a pilgrimage to this place to pray for the latter's healing. People were healed there.

In 2005, Field of Faith, an outdoor sanctuary for reflection and prayer, opened in thanksgiving for the family's overcoming adversities. Here, one can trace the Rosary path, an 850-meter walk with artistic renditions and installations of the different mysteries of the Rosary and Stations of the Cross.

Moonyeen's daughter Carissa, sons Jay and Gerard, and husband Gabby built it together.

Field of Faith is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Friday-Sunday. Facilities include air-conditioned rooms for 32 persons and multipurpose hall for 200 people for retreats and seminars. No food from outside is allowed. Open on Holy Week, text 0919-3781664.

Those who want *estampitas* of Mary Queen of Schoenstatt can write to me c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Pilgrims welcome

Tierra Maria Estates welcomes pilgrims to its Meditation Park in Lipa.

The landscaped park is a unique feature of the 33-hectare residential farm subdivision. It has a dozen statues of Our Lord, Our Lady and some saints by an Ilonggo sculptor.

Tierra Maria Estates, with its lush vegetation and trees, has an orchard-like ambience. Visit www.tierramaria.com or call 8439015-17.

Seminar

The Missionaries of Mary (MOM), a lay Marian movement, will hold a Marian Encounter, Module 1, March 25, at the Lay Formation Center, 2/F, San Carlos Pastoral Formation Complex, Edsa Guadalupe, Makati.

Topics to be covered and speakers are Mariology, Fr. Butch Bombase, OP; The Rosary: History, Meaning and Devotion, Fr. Jun Lingad, SBD; and Marian Devotions in the Philippine Setting, Fr. Aloysius Alino.

Registration begins at 7 a.m. Fee is P50 for food. Call 7438729.

Dauis church

Located in the town of Dauis, three kilometers from Tagbilaran City, it is one of Bohol's beautiful churches, retaining its Spanish architectural design despite a semi-modern façade. Beautiful frescoes painted in 1916 by a certain Ray Francia decorate the entire ceiling of the church.

Built in 1697, its design was largely influenced by Romanesque and Byzantine architecture.

The patron saint, the Virgin of the Assumption, is believed to have miraculous powers. Legend says when the town was invaded by pirates, people hid inside the church until they ran out of water and provisions. Suddenly, a well appeared at the foot of the altar and people started drawing water. The water was absolutely fresh even though the well was only a few meters from the sea.

Until now, the well at the foot of the altar still has fresh water. Locals and tourists get the water that is believed to have healing powers.

Villa del Sols Pension House in Barangay Masasa, Tagbilaran City brings visitors to Dauis Church as part of its package tour. Also in the itinerary are Baclayon Church and Museum and Loboc Church. There are also visits to the Sandugo site where Datu Sikatuna made a blood compact with Spanish conquistador Juan Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, reenacted in July every year during the Sandugo Festival; Chocolate Hills; Hinagdanan Cave; Bohol Bee Farm; and Panglao Island.

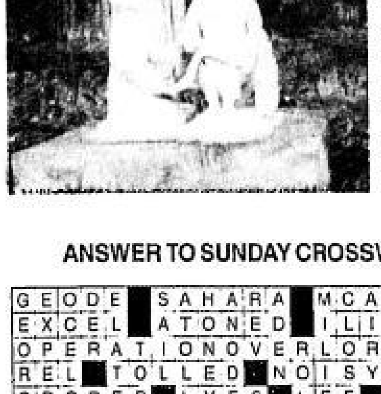
Visit www.villadelsolbohol.com or text 0917-6273159.

Holy Spirit Academy

I will always be grateful to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit (S.Sp.S) at the Holy Spirit Academy in Laoag City for the values they taught us in elementary and high school. All the girls in the Darang family are grateful.

My father's sisters, Esperanza Cid, Corazon Asuncion and Virginia Rillera, studied at the school. Now my niece, Juli Anne Darang, daughter of my brother Abe and his wife Rose, graduated with honors in the elementary last Friday.

MOONYEEN Retizos-Singson, cancer survivor


THE HOLY Family at the Meditation Park in Tierra Maria Estates

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

G	E	O	D	E	■	S	A	H	A	R	A	■	M	C	A	N	■	I	M	P
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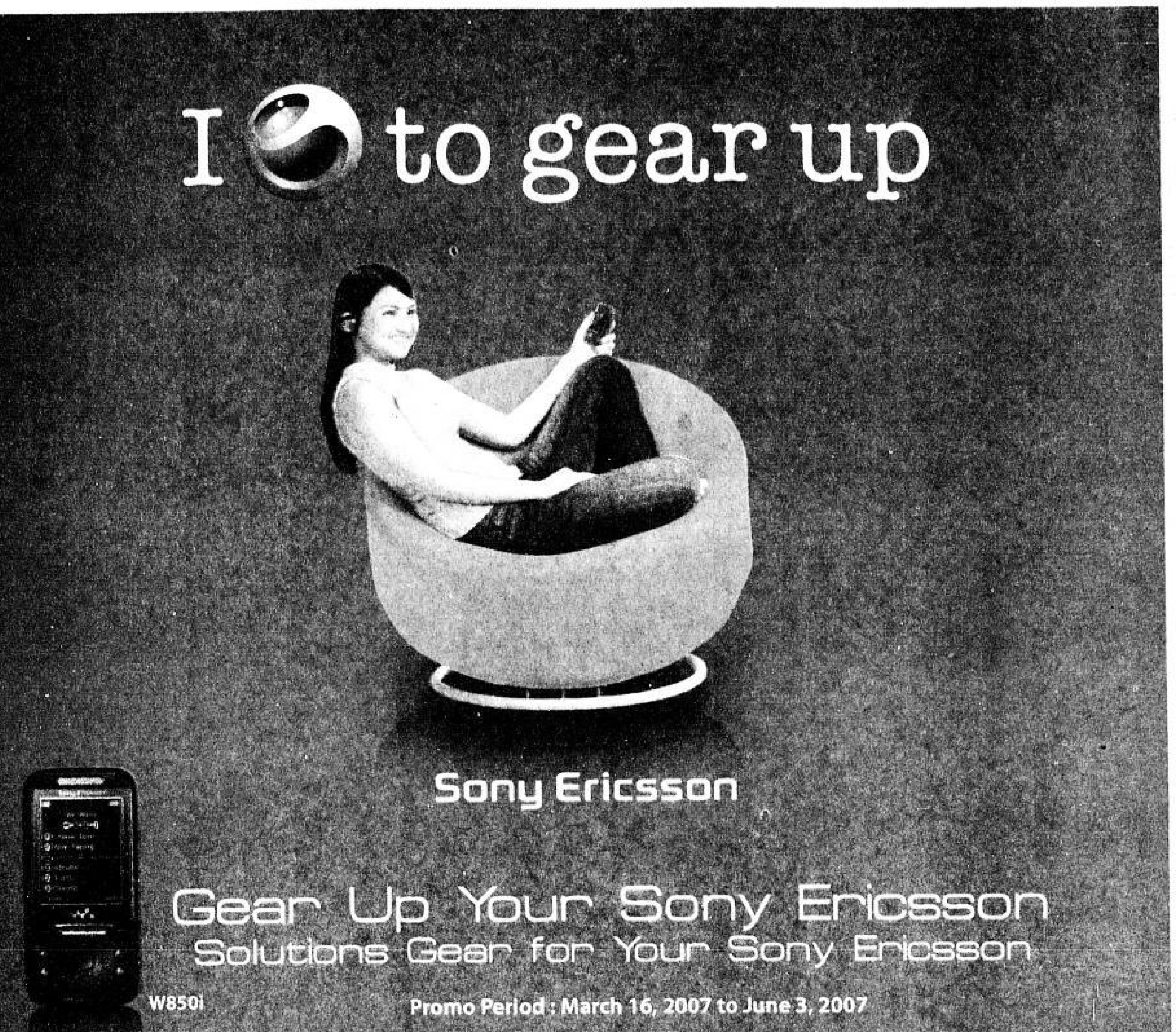

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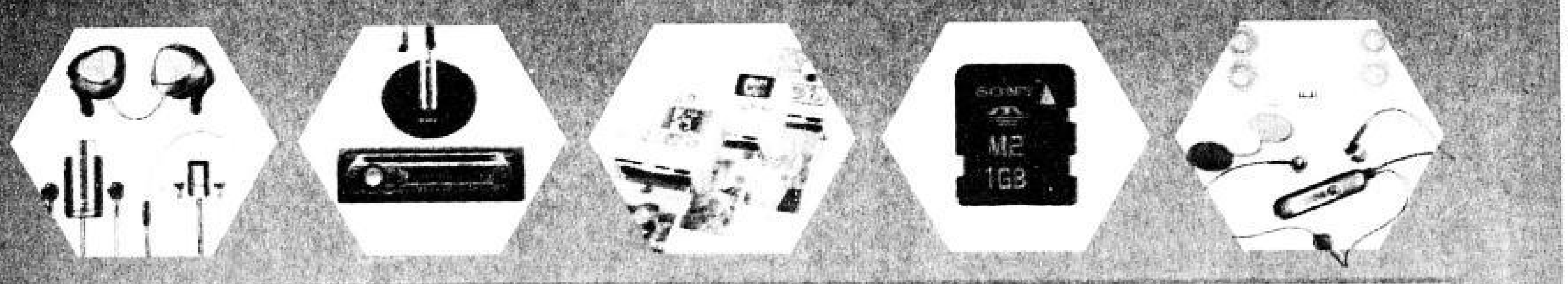

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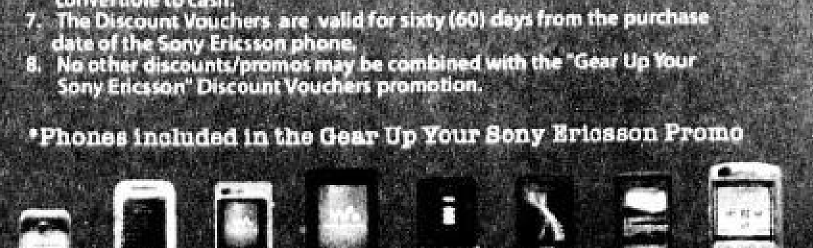

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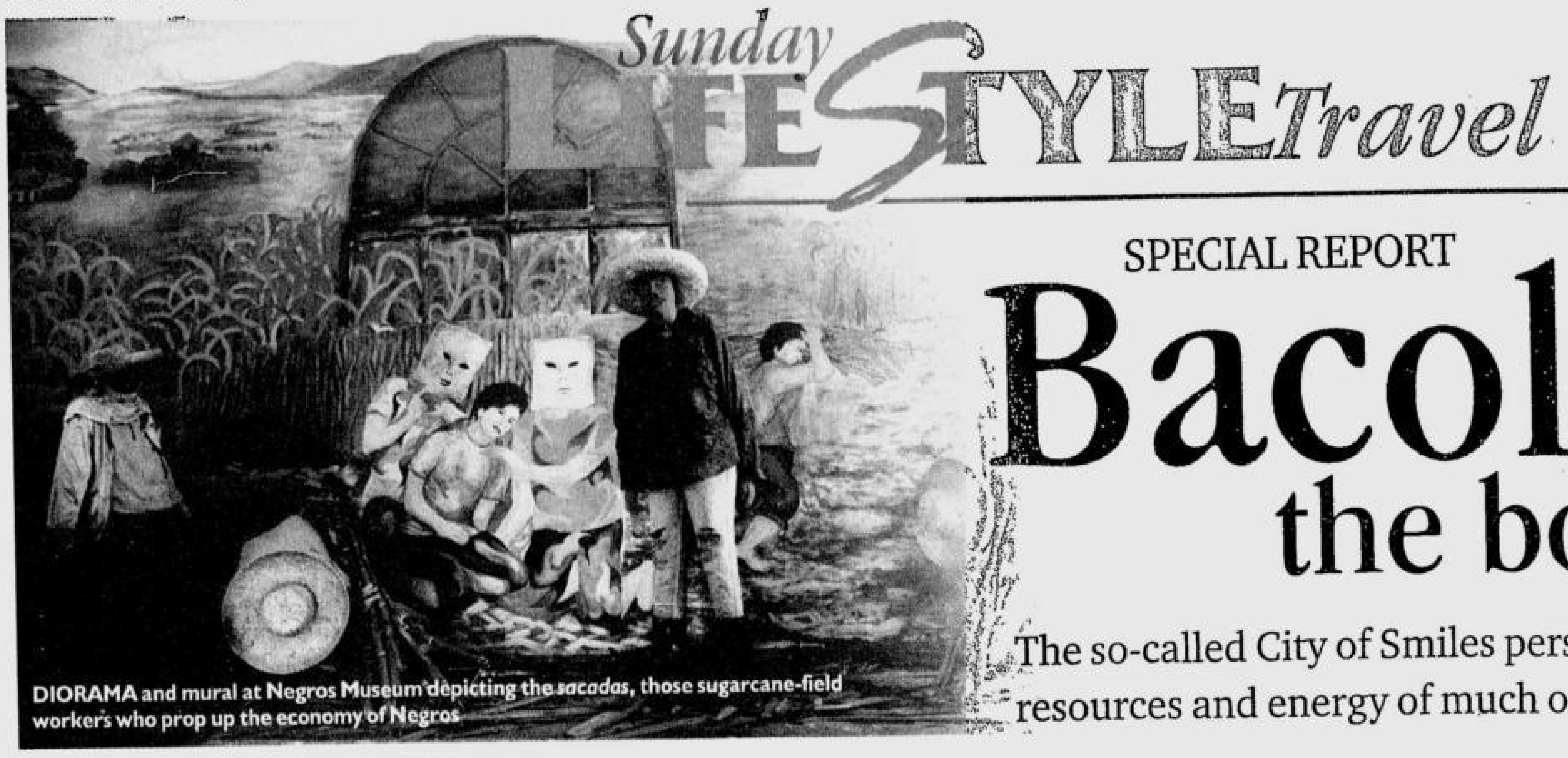

DIORAMA and mural at Negros Museum depicting the *sacadas*, those sugarcane-field workers who prop up the economy of Negros

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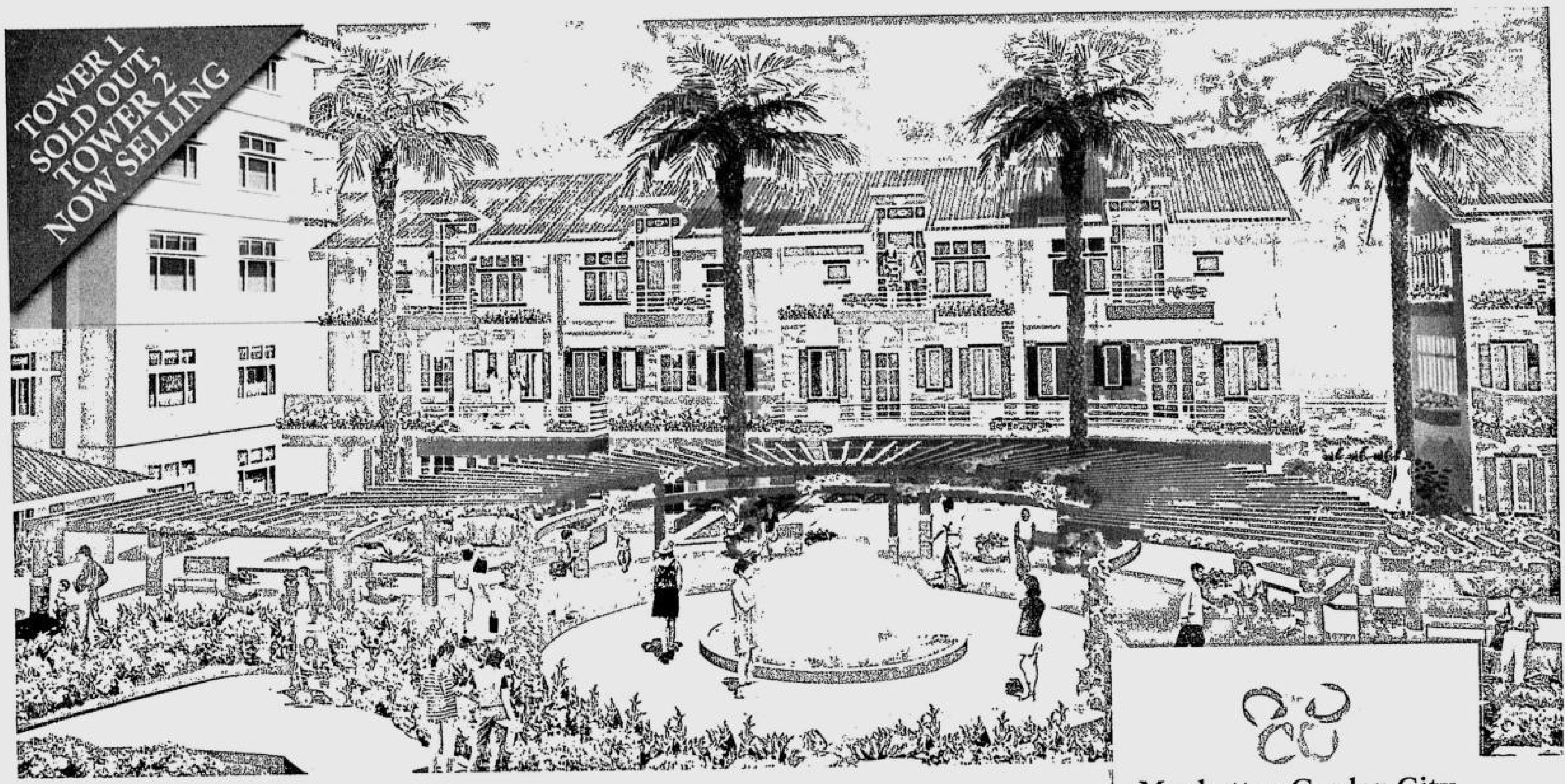
SPECIAL REPORT

Bacolod the bountiful

The so-called City of Smiles personifies the boundless resources and energy of much of Negros and Panay islands

Story on page F2



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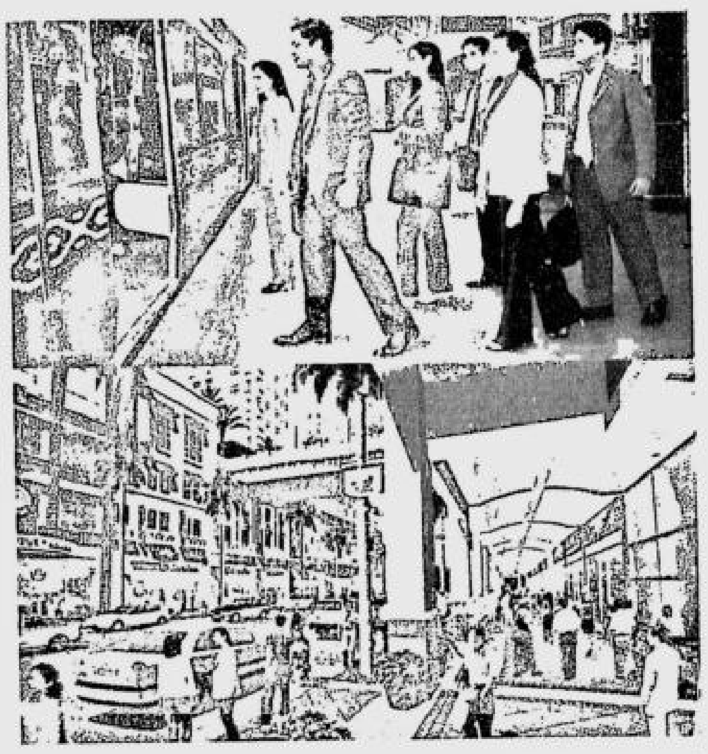

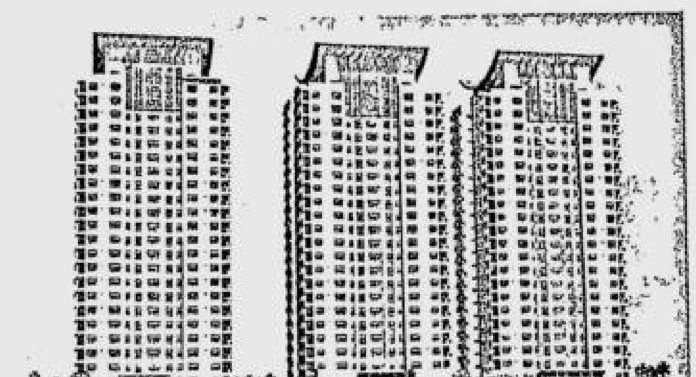

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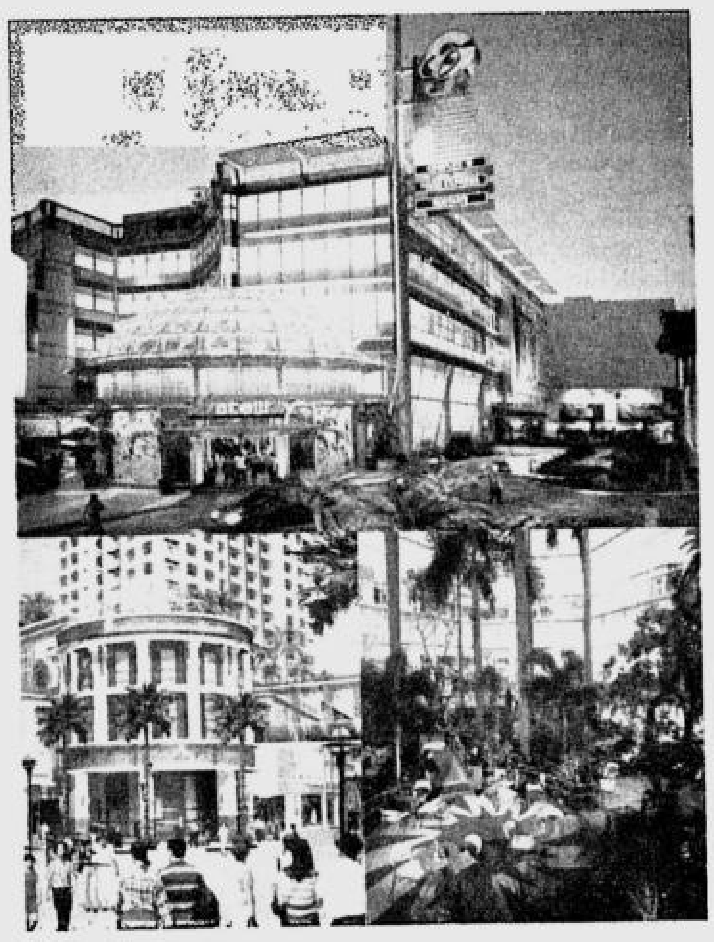

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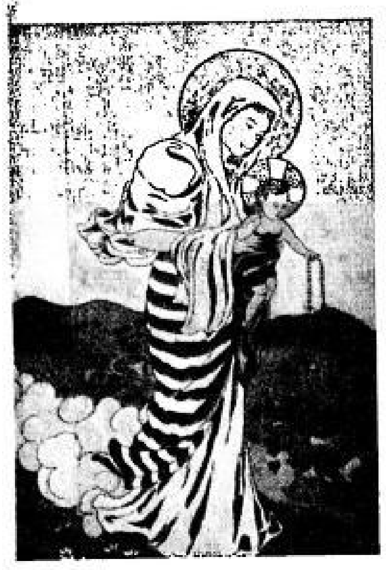
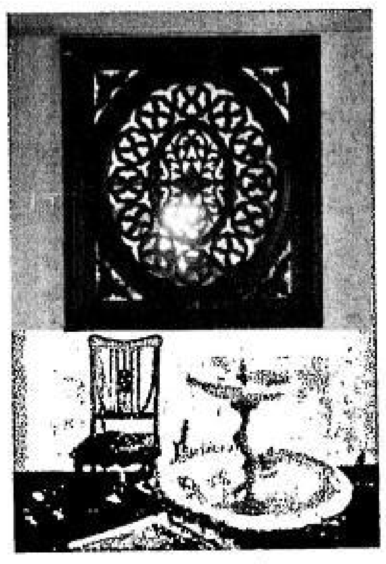
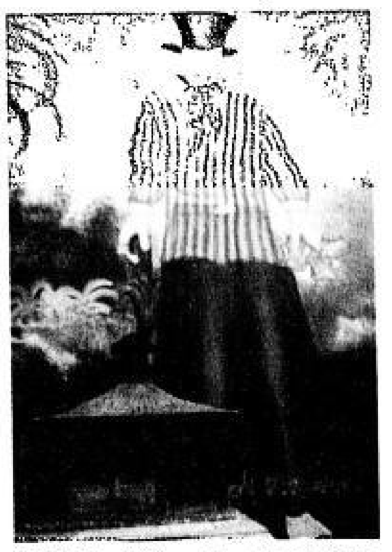
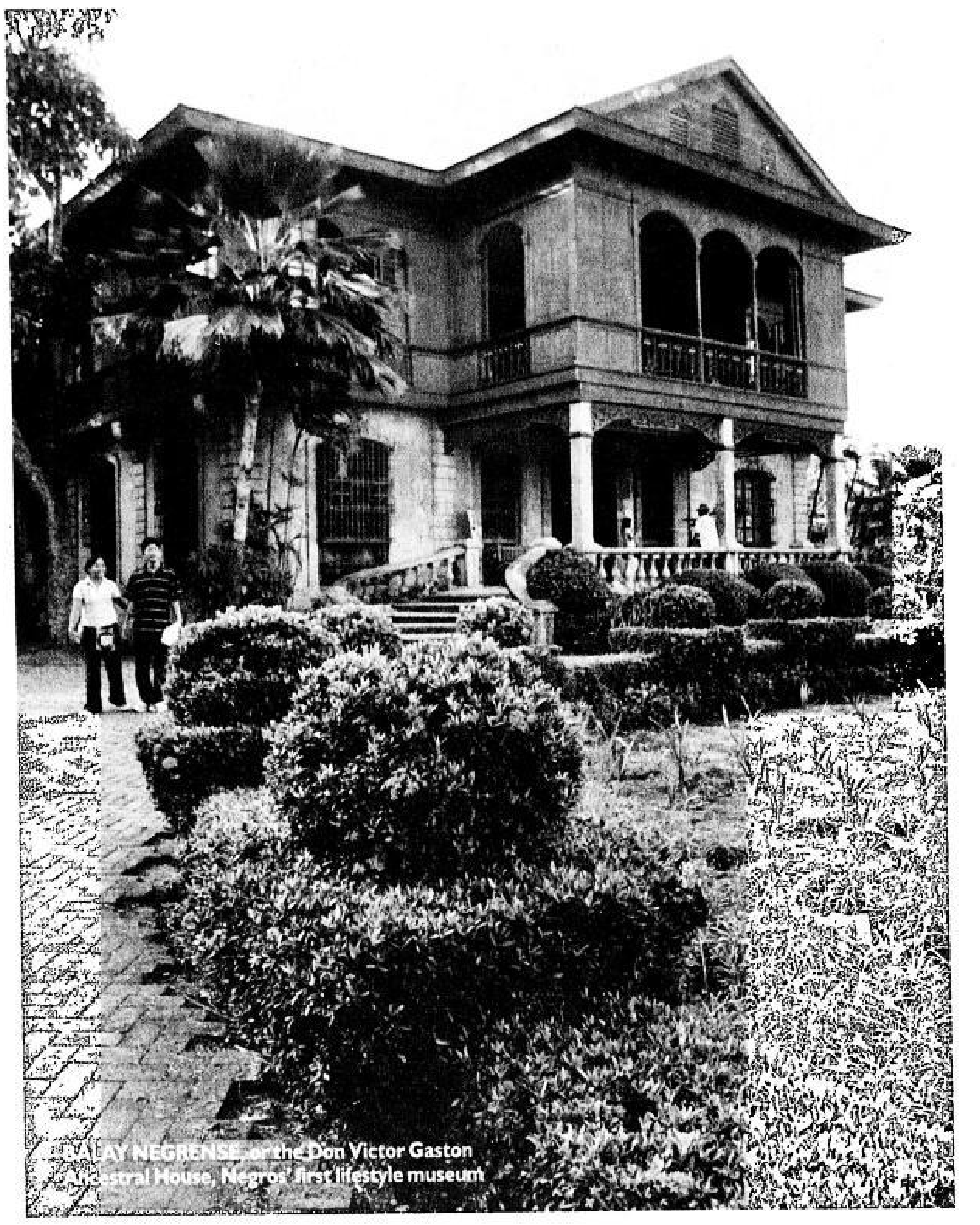

MURAL mosaic at Sta. Clara Subdivision chapel


ART Nouveau fretwork ventilation in the Lizares Mansion


MURAL of 19-century *hacendero* and scale model of typical plantation house at Negros Museum


BALAY NEGRENSE, or the Don Victor Gaston Ancestral House, Negros' first lifestyle museum

Bacolod
the bountiful

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Lyn Rillon

THE FABULOUS WEALTH OF the fabled island of Negros has its source in its basically volcanic soil, which is ideal for agriculture, says a tourism guide. Eighty percent of its arable land is cultivated.

With the collapse of the textile industry in Iloilo in the 19th century, there was mass migration and movement of capital as the Ilongo elite flocked to this neighboring island across Panay Gulf and fueled the sugar industry.

Touted as the new frontier, the island also attracted Spaniards from Spain and Manila, the French, and people from the neighboring provinces of Cebu, Bohol and Antique. But what are now known as the Negrense *hacenderos* (sugar barons) are largely from Iloilo in origin or ancestry.

Those migrants from Panay infused not only capital into the booming industry of Negros but also brought along their culture, from cuisine to traditional crafts, language, music, dance. This is evident even to virtual outsiders who can hardly distinguish people from Iloilo from those of Bacolod yet can readily differentiate the Ilongos from their nearest neighbors in Panay (Capiz, Aklan and Antique).

Visitors may want to imbibe of Negrense culture after the Holy Week, when Panaad sa Negros festival will be celebrated in Bacolod on April 9-17. The city, entry point and capital of Negros Occidental, is 50 minutes by plane or 18 hours by fast ferryboat from Manila.

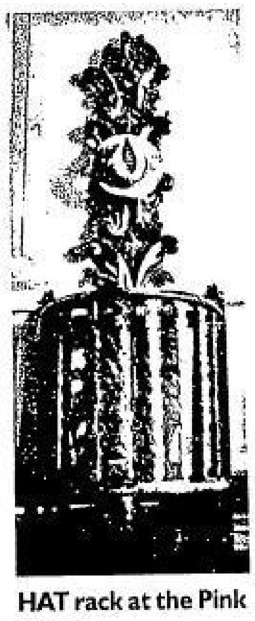
Phenomenal growth

Bacolod is a relatively young city. The island called Buglas was discovered by Spanish explorers and divided into *encomiendas* (Spanish colonial settlements) in the late 16th century, but it was not until the mid-19th century that the province experienced a phenomenal growth. Bacolod was then a small village along Magsungay River.

Says the guide: "The expansion of the sugar industry in the 1850s and the opening of the Suez Canal flooded Bacolod with European fineries and artworks. Baroque churches and sprawling mansions rose across the Negros landscape, and Spanish culture flowered in the tropics. Evidence of this can be seen in the downtown San Sebastian Church and in the ancestral homes of the Locsins, Lizareses, Aranetas, Gastons, Lacsons and other old families in Talisay, Silay and Bago."

A good way to start one's cultural tour is a visit to the Negros Museum, a neoclassic building on Gatuslao Street formerly occupied by the Ministry of Agriculture and converted by the Negros Cultural Foundation into a museum that houses not antiquities but stories of the Negrense.

SUSAN Magalona, legendary beauty


HAT rack at the Pink House

CUPOLA of the Church of San Diego

Leisure and labor

Upstairs are displayed in dioramas, murals and archival materials the lifestyles of Negros' pygmy aborigines, pre-Hispanic natives, *hacenderos* and *sacadas*; models of the *molino de sangre* (primitive sugar mill producing *muscovado*), sugar-production laboratory, the typical plantation house; an archive of the *hacendero's* affairs; lines from folk songs inscribed on swathes of sheer fabric, such as "Ay, ay, Pagkakapoy!" (sung by the bone-weary *sacadas*) and "Dandansoy" (the original love song composed by Augorio Abeto in the 1930s).

One hall is divided into sections showcasing foreign influences on the natives: Spanish, American, British, Chinese, Japanese. The Spanish section has a photo of La Iglesia de Nuestra Sra. de Magdalena de Hinigaran, built in 1858, the oldest church on the island.

The American section has a locomotive which used to transport sugarcanes from the field to the sugar central. The Japanese section has design photos showing the influence of the Japanese garden and bathhouse in the construction of the Mambucal Summer Resort.

Artworks and artifacts

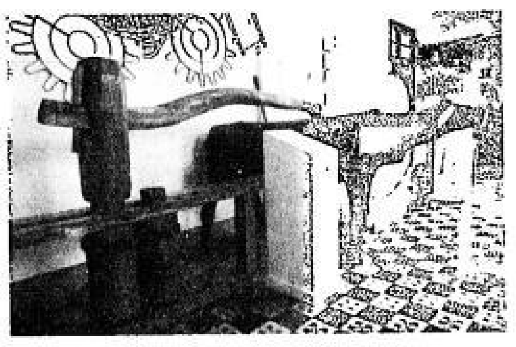
On the lobby is an authentic *batil* (small ferryboat) laden with barter goods from Iloilo. There's also a photo of the first airline in the country, the Iloilo-Negros Air Co., which the Aranetas, Lizareses, Santoses and Lopezes started operating in 1936.

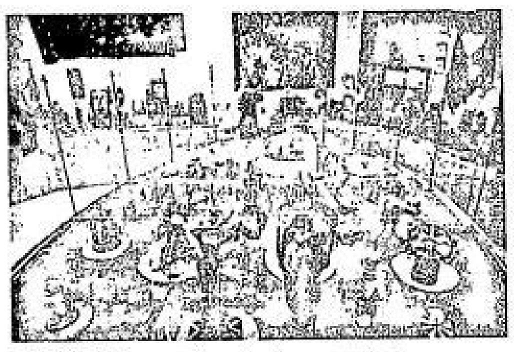
In another room are heirloom pieces consisting of the three kinds of fan (silk, feather and ivory) respectively wielded by the *doña* according to the occasion; a 150-year-old dress of *piña-jusi* from the Montinola Silos family; mementos from the Kahirup Ball that Ilongos and Negrenses annually held in Manila Hotel before martial law; pictures of that legendary Negrense beauty, Susan Magalona.

There is a scale model of the original Luzuriaga Mansion, now the old City Hall. There is also a footnoted picture of Farmacia Locsin in Silay, where the Republica Cantonal de Negros was declared in 1899 by the revolutionaries with Gen. Aniceto Lacson as president—a republic that lasted for three months.

Downstairs is a gallery for changing exhibits, at this time showing artworks by Negrense artists Lino Severino, Jess Ayco, Larry Tronco and Eliazar Santiago. One hallway is adorned with photographs of the 54 churches built by the Augustinian Recollects in Negros.

Near the museum shop is the José García Montelibano Gallery of International Folk Arts and Toys, a mazelike room touted as the biggest toy gallery in the country. It has 22,400 items ranging from dolls from all over the world to national costumes and playhouses. Museum assistant curator Raymond Bayot says it takes them two weeks to clean the pieces.


MOLINO de sangre


BIGGEST toy gallery in the country

Culture high and low

The house of Bamboo Tonogbanua, an art instructor at La Consolacion College, has a similar display called Christmas Village, a roomful of kinetic miniatures celebrating Yuletide in snow country. Culture snobs may dismiss such as kitsch, but, really, it does not fail to impress.

Tonogbanua also has an impressive collection of artworks by the so-called Black Artists in Asia—Nunelucio Alvarado, Charlie Co, Dennis Ascalon.

Another epitome of folk art that doesn't fail to impress is the chapel in Sta. Clara Subdivision at Mandalagan (referred to as Bacolod's Forbes Park). On the central wall of the altar is a mural mosaic of a native Madonna in *tapis* carrying a Child Jesus with rosary, done in capiz-shell squares of varying sizes.

That and all the other mosaics and statuary of the Stations of the Cross, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Virgin of Guadalupe, the St. Joseph, the San Lorenzo Ruiz, and even the altar table are done in 95,000 squares of capiz shell in the 32 shades found off the Negros coast.

Barangay sang Virgen Chapel was designed by Norman Campos. The mural mosaic was created by Leticia Ledesma.

The rich and the famous

Trying to resist the flux of time and the vicissitudes of fortune are the hulking edifices dotting the Negros landscape, foremost of which are the heritage structures of Talisay and Silay.

Many of these mansions, such as the Aniceto Lacson House, also known as the Claparols Mansion, in Talisay, 7 km from Bacolod, may be crumbling now, but they have been duly recorded in films such as Lino Brocka's "Gumising Ka, Maruja" and Negrense Peque Gallaga's "Oro Plata Mata."

Balay ni Tana Dicang, or the Lizares Mansion, also in Talisay, shows a similar decrepitude, and the saddest part is, it hasn't been declared a heritage structure by the National Historical Institute yet.

And it contains treasures: Art Nouveau rosette wall ventilation of *tindalo*; Moorish window patterns; an angel of *molave* retrieved from the family cemetery and now guarding the stairway's *descando*(landing); Placido Mapa's desk; artworks, including early drawings by National Artist Arturo Luz.

Silay City, 14 km from Bacolod or a 20-minute ride away, is known as the Paris of the South for its 31 ancestral houses identified by the NHI. It is the hometown of National Artist for Architecture Leandro Locsin, opera singer Conchita Gaston, culture writer Doreen Gamboa Fernandez, Celia Diaz Laurel, Sen. José Locsin.

Silay's most famous landmark is the Church of San Diego, with its Romanesque architecture, silver dome and big clock. Even El Ideal Bakery itself is part of the Negrense cultural heritage—the Cesar Lacson Locsin Ancestral House, declared a heritage structure in 1993 by the NHI.

Living the good life

The Bernardino Jalandoni Museum, often referred to as the Pink House, was declared by the NHI as Silay's first National Historical Landmark. About 90 percent of the existing structure is still the original, from its ceiling of embossed metal sheets from Hamburg to its *calado* ventilation.

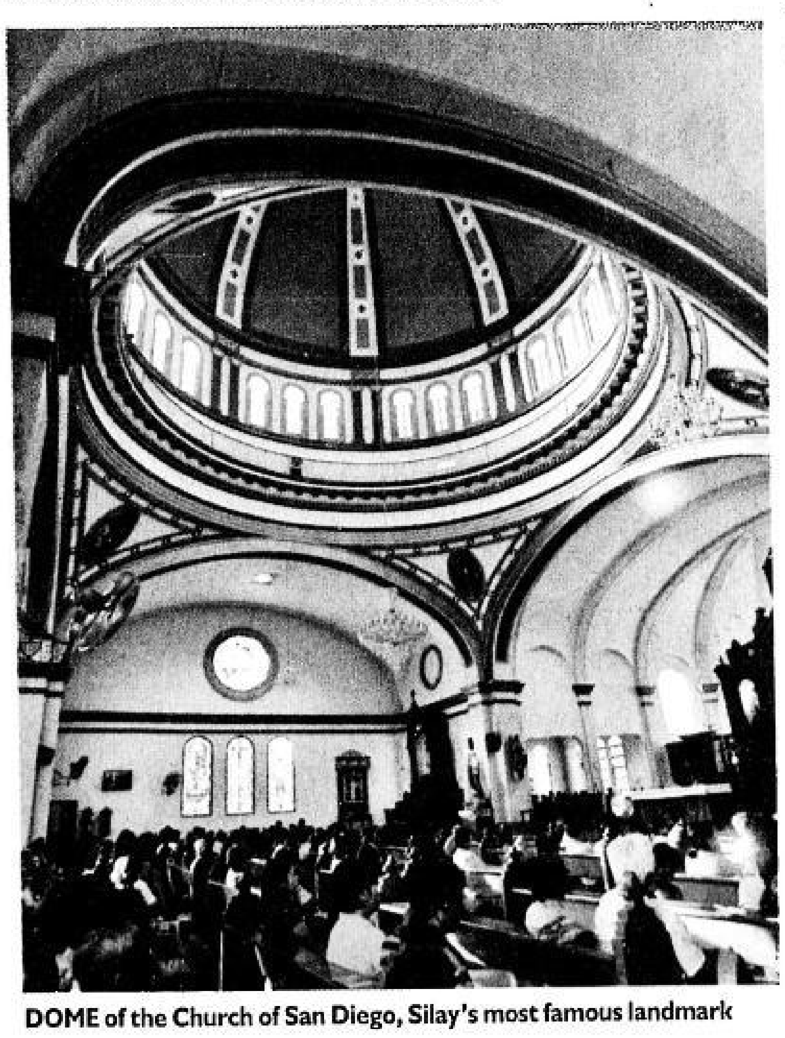
In the kitchen is a primitive refrigerator of hardwood lined with metal. In those days, 10 pounds of ice, brought by steamboats from Massachusetts, was delivered daily to the household for P5 a month (equivalent to P3,500 today).

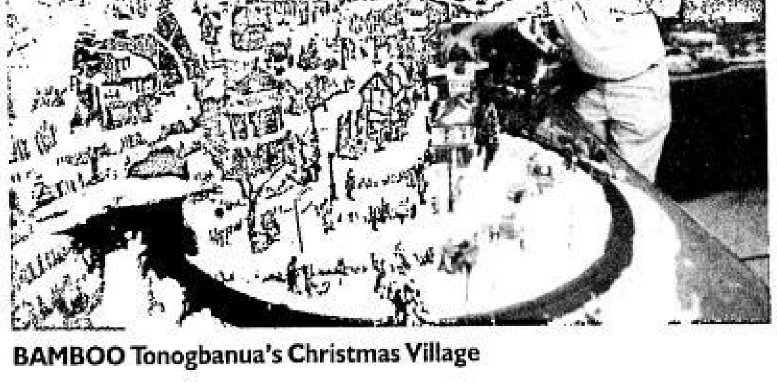
On the stairway's *caeda* is a hardwood rack for hats and canes, carved in the form of the Mexican eagle. There is a 1910 rotary telephone at the top of the stairs.

The lampshade in the sala is of Baccarat crystal. The chamber pot in the bedroom is of precious porcelain from Europe.

There is, of course, the much-written-about Balay Negrense, the Don Victor Gaston Ancestral House, which was converted into Negros' first lifestyle museum in 1990, showcasing how sugar planters lived at the turn of the 20th century.

Enter this domain and see that those Negrense *hacenderos* weren't just boasting of their wealth. Why, they actually lived it.


DOME of the Church of San Diego, Silay's most famous landmark


BAMBOO Tonogbanua's Christmas Village

SALA of Balay ni Tana Dicang

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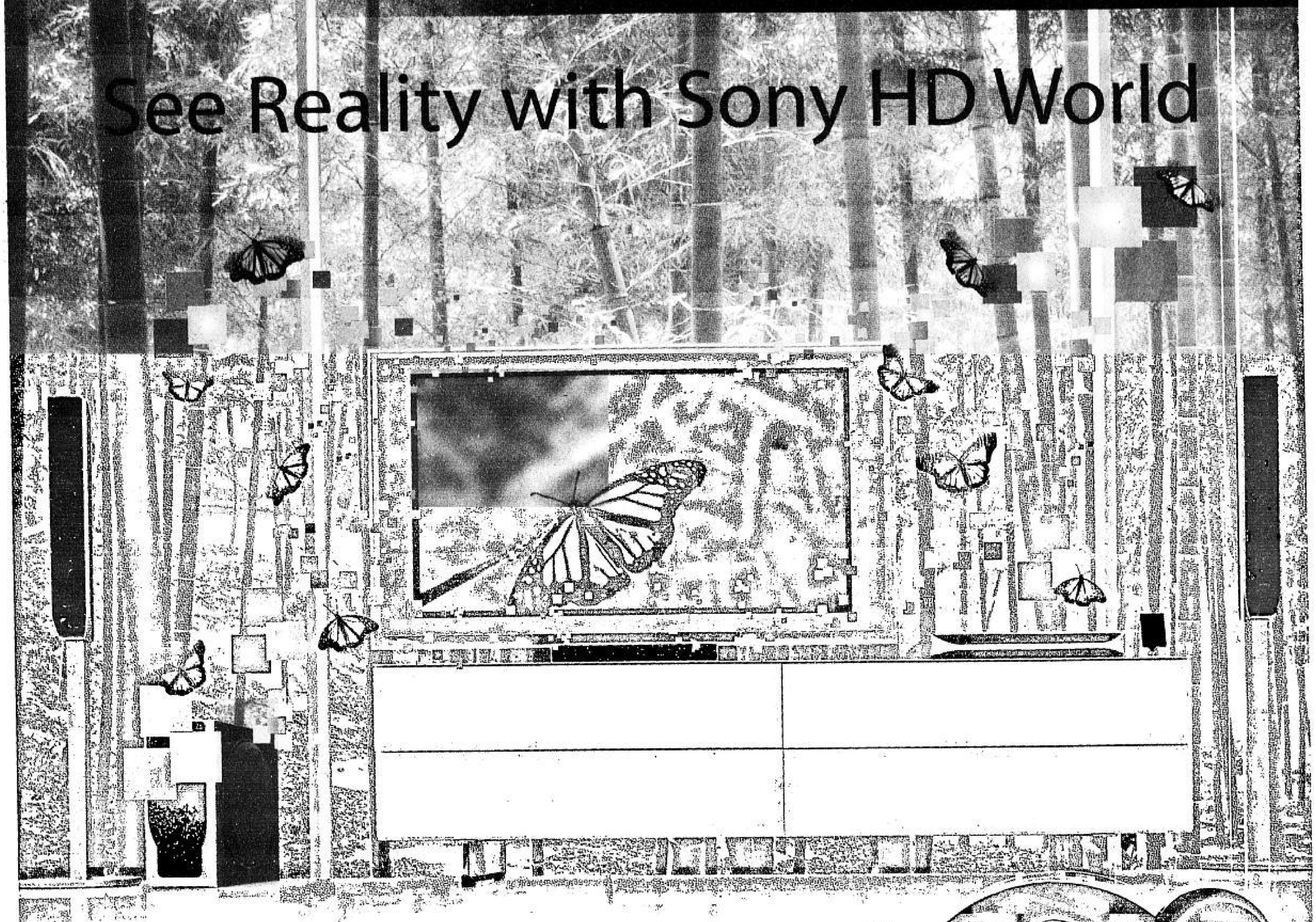

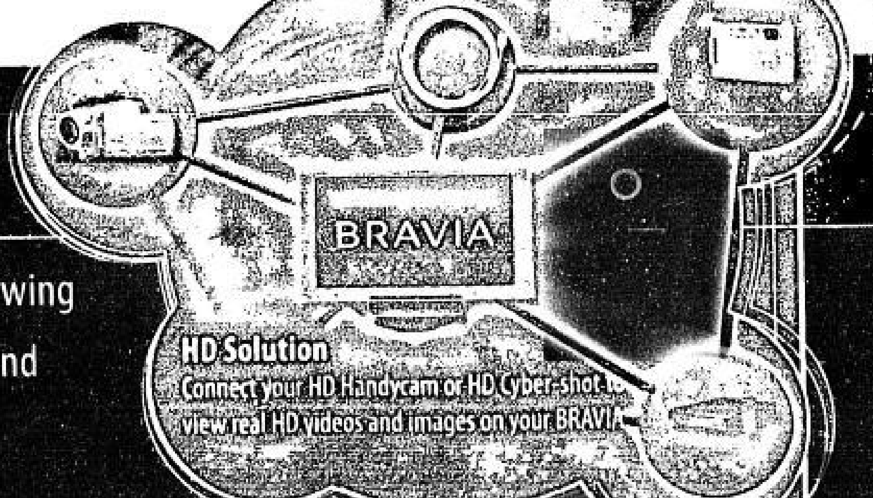

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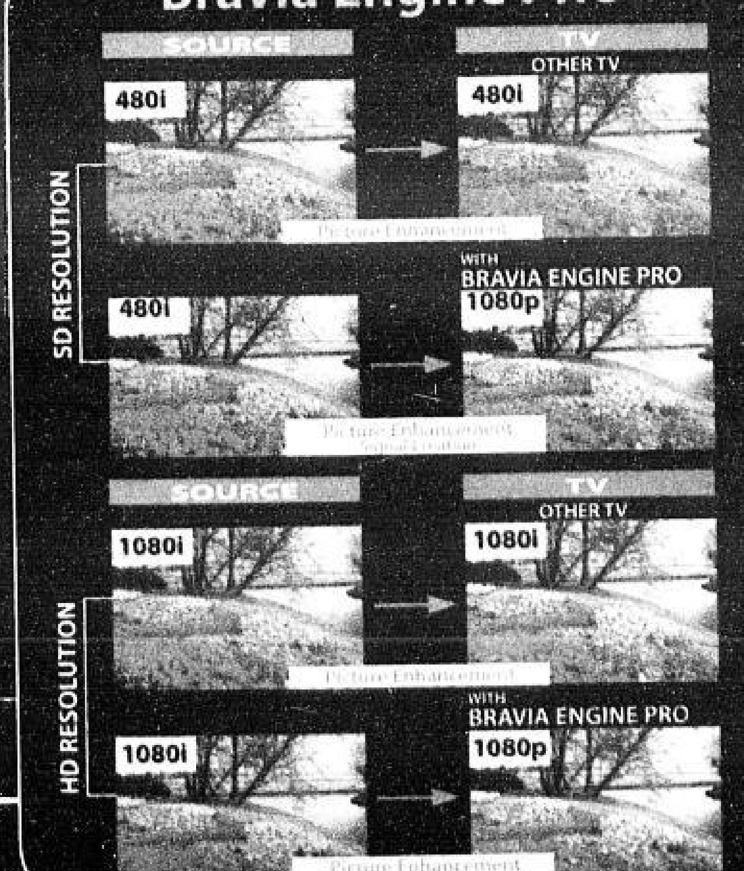
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LUZON: Sm Sta Rosa- Mar 27-Apr 2 • CSI Mall - Dagupan- Apr 13-19 • Pacific Mall -Legaspi- May 4-15 • Sm Pampanga- May 25-31

VISAYAS: BQ Mall -Bohol- Mar 26-Apr 2 • Peoples Park- Tacloban- April 13-20 • Ayala Center- Cebu- Apr 26-May 1 • Sm Iloilo- May 4-10 • Robinson Bacolod- May 14-19

MINDANAO: Limketkai Mall- CDO- Mar 23-Apr 1• Gaizano Mall -Davao- April 12-20 • KCC Mall- Gen Santos- Apr 22-May 1

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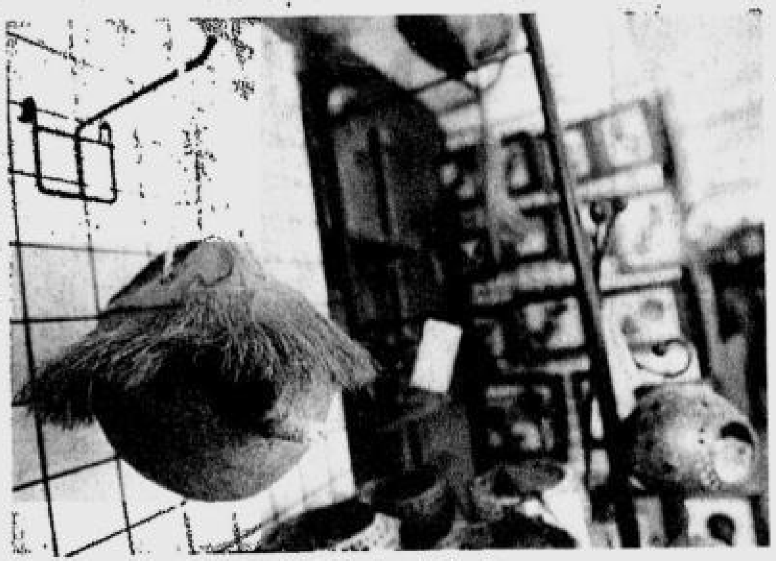
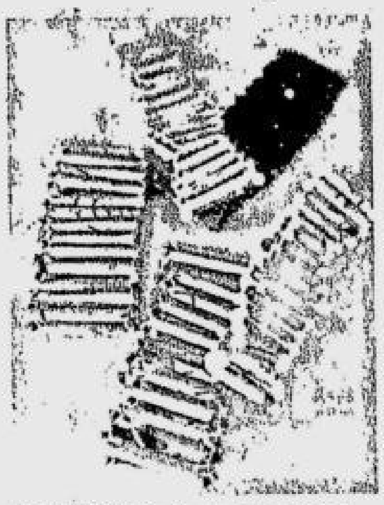
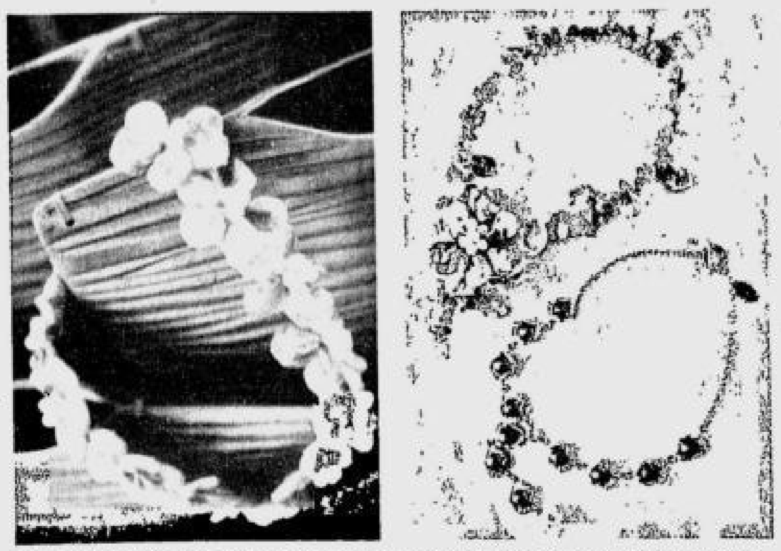
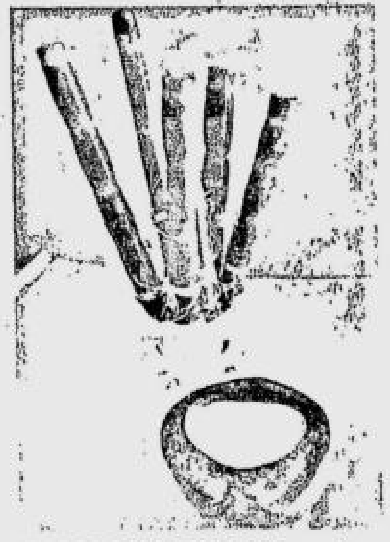

BIRDHOUSE of coco shell by Hacienda Crafts


BRACELETS of rolled recycled paper made by out-of-school youths, from Neoropeworks


NECKLACES of mother-of-pearl and freshwater pearls and crystals by Giftsfashion


SUGARCANE-SHAPED candles by RPJ Mall and coco shell candle by Babylan's Cococrafts

Back from the doldrums

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Lyn Rillon

NEGROS FOLK SAY THEY'RE as sweet as their sugar, so that it would be anomalous to meet an unsmiling Negrense.

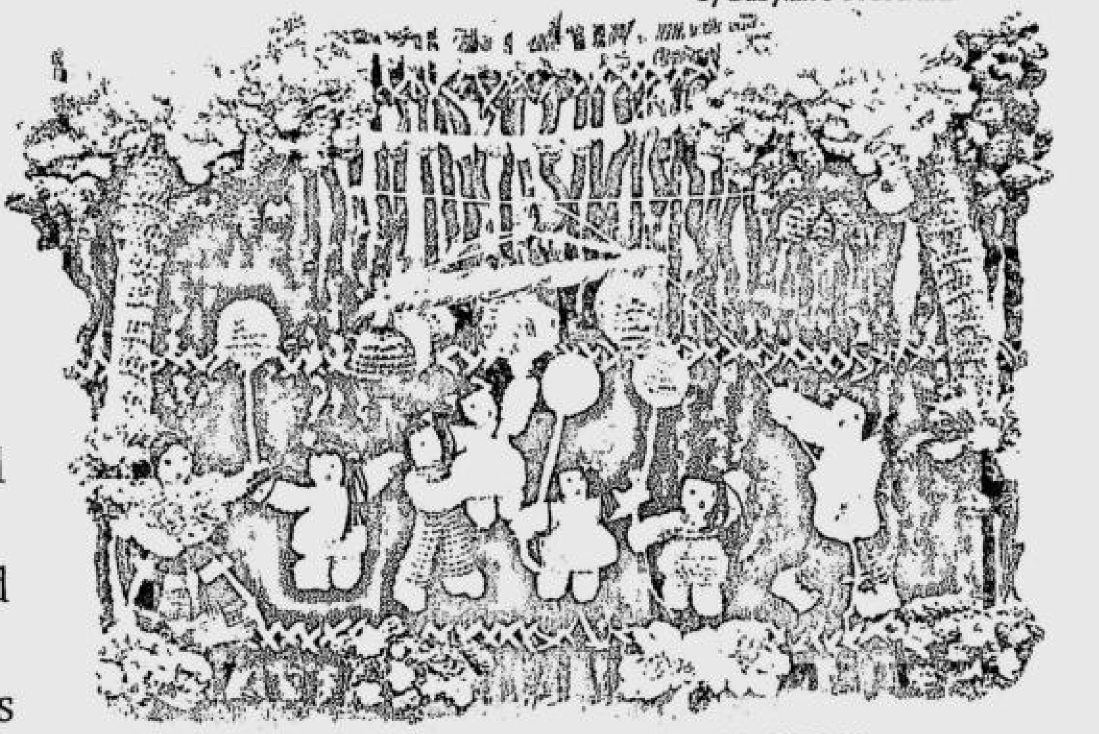
But even this famously calm and pleasant people have had their share of a trying past. The economy of Negros was dealt a hard blow during the sugar crisis in the 1980s. Some 150,000 workers lost their jobs. No one was left unscathed.

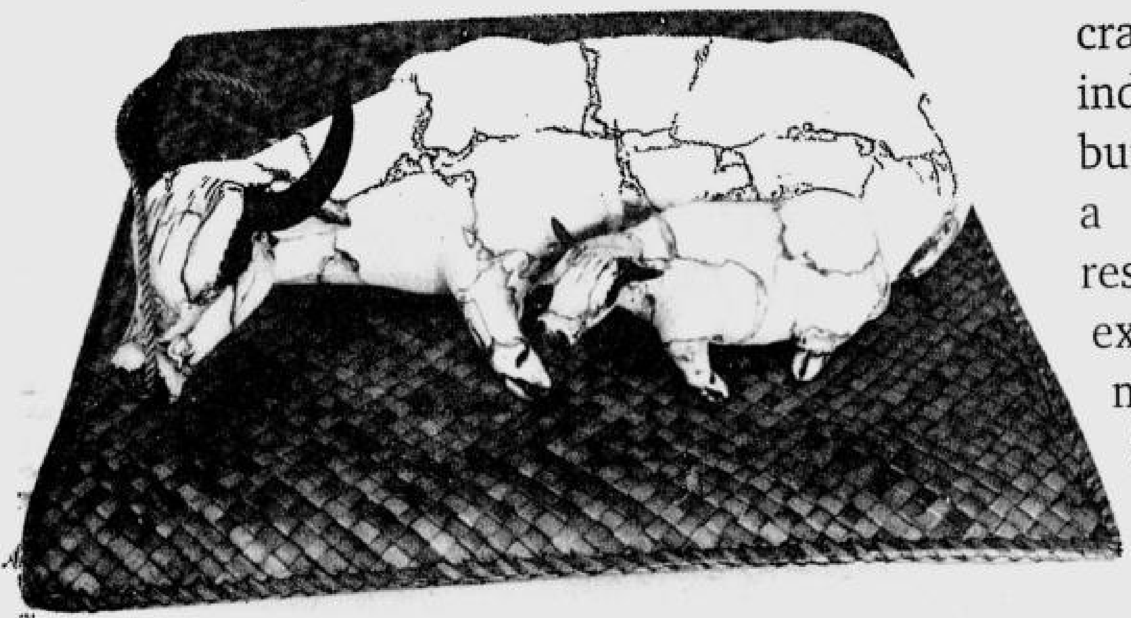
But the Negrense rebounded in typical Negrense fashion. The now-famous Masskara, a three-week festival of smiling masks, was born to boost the sagging spirit of the Negros people. A former governor, Daniel Bitay Lacson, pushed for diversification from a monocrop industry and encouraged small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs.

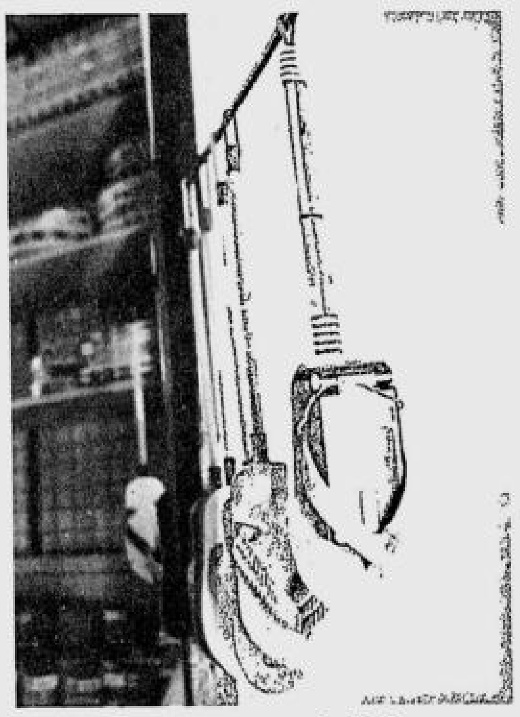
In 1988, a group of Manila-based women from illustrious Negros clans formed the Association of Negros Producers, a nonprofit organization that promotes the small- and medium-scale industries of Negros Occidental.

Fifteen thousand jobs were created as a result of this move, said Lovelle Bellocillo of the Negros Showroom in Bacolod City, the home base of ANP. The association now has 74 active member-producers—including some from Negros Oriental—involved in a variety of handicraft, furniture and food production.

Negros Occidental has rebounded from the sugar crisis of the 1980s and, with its crafts industries building up a respectable export market, is taking on the world


PHILIPPINE scenes are depicted in coco twigs and needlecraft by VS Heirlooms.


CARABAO model of recycled plastic by MSYT


SMAKOL, or fly swatter, and cell-phone holders by K-Cube

As sugar remains the chief produce of Negros, its by-products are key items in the display at the Negros Showroom: The famous *piaya* sits alongside other baked goodies.

Houseware and gift items have also come into the picture, with woven crafts and laminated home décor among the top-selling items. Bellocillo said 20 percent of ANP members were involved in export, with Japan, France, Italy and Scandinavian countries as main markets.

Tapping into the creative side of the Negrense also proved successful, with 28 manufacturers now creating attractive jewelry, bags and apparel, both for the local and global markets. The children's wear with exquisite embroidery, Bellocillo said, are especially popular abroad.

The ANP has been instrumental in bringing Negrense products to trade fairs overseas. It also holds the annual Negros Trade Fair in Manila. The achievements show Negrense resilience.

BACOLOD
Bacolod
PHILIPPINES
SM DEPARTMENT Store can be counted on for a wealth of souvenir items wherever its location, like these woven hats and bags, T-shirts and fiesta masks at the new Bacolod branch.

Bacolod shabby chic

Chez Rose is a specialty shop selling an eclectic mix of home décor, table and bed linens, artworks, export handicraft

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Lyn Rillon

BACOLEÑOS ARE FIERCELY LOYAL TO the things they grew up with that an entrepreneur who owns a famous local shop was undaunted when SM Bacolod opened its doors there. In fact, she set up shop under the same roof as the department store that said "We've got it all!"

"We were aware of that," says Pamela Ang Valderrama, owner of Chez Rose, a specialty shop selling an eclectic mix of home décor, table and bed linens, artworks, export handicraft. "But we also wanted to show that we have something different to offer. As you can see, we're going for shabby chic here."

It's her and her sisters' passion for travel and life's finer things that led to Chez Rose, says Valderrama. Each piece in the store is carefully chosen, each a special object that they themselves would want to own.

Nearly 30 years ago, she and her siblings would come home from trips abroad, their suitcases filled with knickknacks amassed from avid shopping overseas. Realizing they could keep only so much of their purchases, Valderrama decided to dispose of the items door-to-door in their Bacolod hometown.

'Imported'

Typically Pinoy, Bacoleños loved the "imported" goods Valderrama was peddling, "especially the ones from the US." She was encouraged to bring in more and more stuff from visits to Thailand, China, the United States, even Manila. A US-based sister, after whom the store would be named, also sent items to sell.

When a major mall opened in Bacolod 10 years ago, Valderrama, with sisters Grace Reyes and Rose Lacson, took the opportunity to open a permanent showroom for their merchandise. Even before the SM branch, Chez Rose had expanded its service, offering to include gift-wrapping.

"We wanted the gift to look very special, even if it's worth only P50," says Valderrama.

HOMEGROWN STAR. Chez Rose at SM Bacolod

SERVICE WITH A SMILE. Chez Rose's Pamela Ang Valderrama (right) with husband Mario Valderrama and sister Grace Reyes

Floral arrangements, mixing and matching home and office accessories, and decorating homes, restaurants and other stores at Christmastime also became part of their expertise.

Valderrama has an important day job as vice president for marketing of companies involved in sugar mills and mining, "but nothing beats working in my little shop," she says. "It's always my goal to make each customer so pleased with our merchandise and our service that she or he would always come back."

Chez Rose prices range "from P50 to P50,000."

"We've passed that stage where we wanted to keep everything we bought on our travels. We're growing old, you know, and we just want to do things leisurely."

Apart from Chez Rose, the new SM Bacolod has its fair share of homegrown retailers selling jewelry, electronic gadgets, kids' stuff. For tourists hankering for a bit more of Bacolod, SM Department Store can be counted on for the ubiquitous souvenir T-shirts and curios.

But if there's one keepsake you shouldn't leave this SM without, it's those emblematic Venetian-style masks of the City of Smiles.

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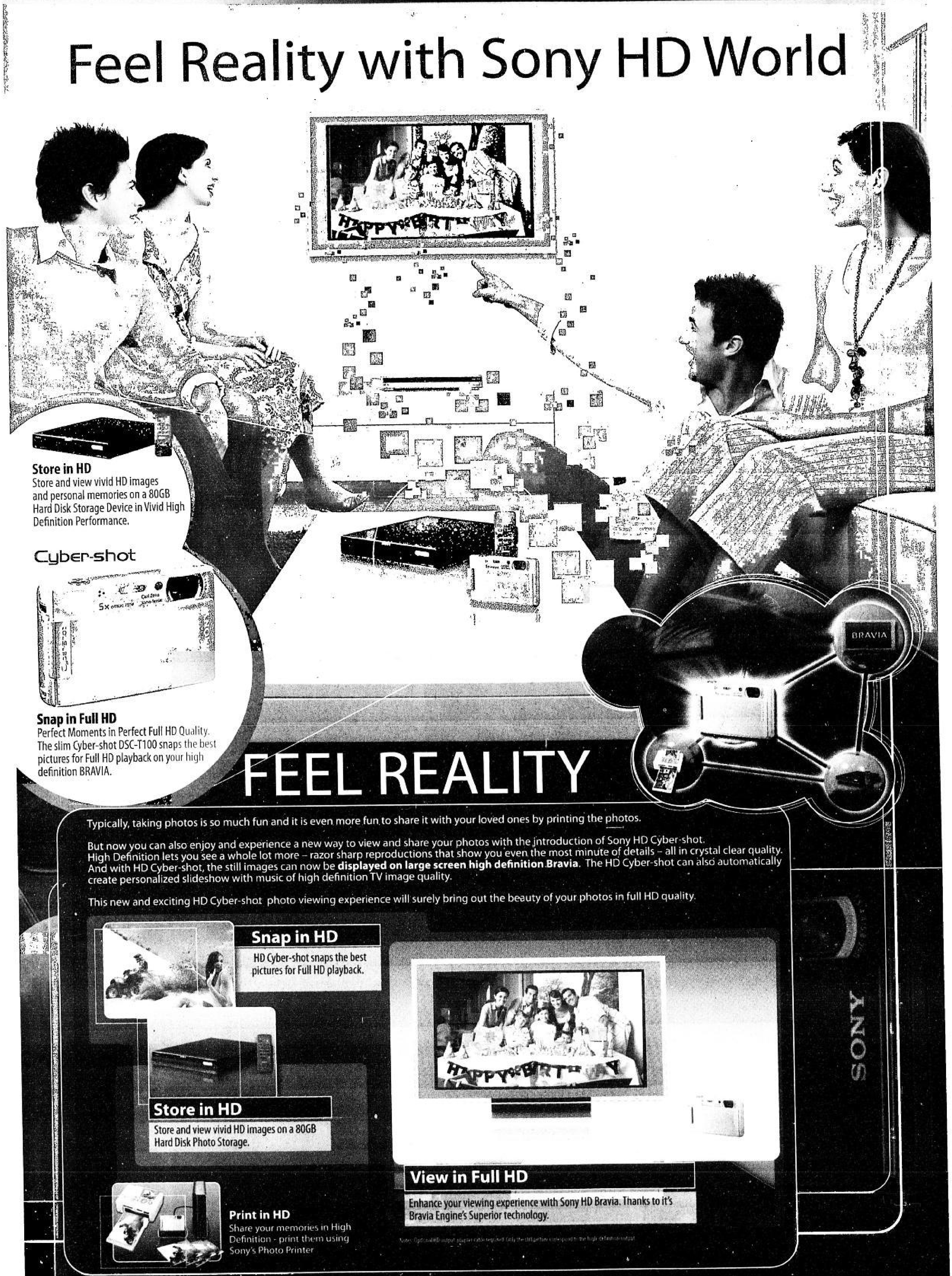

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No: 0666 Series of 2007.

A foodie's Bacolod

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Lyn Rillon

OUR THREE-DAY VISIT TO Bacolod gave us a taste of the gastronomic goodness unique only to this progressive city. We indulged in the best Negros had to offer—fish, shellfish, native chicken barbecue and even burgers, and some of the best desserts.

Here are places you can check out in Bacolod for filling, pleasant and memorable meals.

Aida's at Manokan Country

They say that a visit to this city is not complete until one eats at Manokan Country, the home of chicken *inasal*. And so we tried Aida's.

Talk about good food; you got it here, yes, almost anytime. Aida is the name of *Mang* Bert Tarrosa's wife who passed away a year after the place was established in 1983.

It's been in the business for 24 years—and the secret of its long-staying power? Hot, tasty, down-home cooking eaten on the spot.

We had our fill of *inasal* (skewered, fish sauce-calamansi-garlic-vinegar-marinated) chicken parts: wing, liver, intestines, legs, tasty even without the self-mixed dip.

The meat is juicy and tasty, which perfectly matched the steamed rice basted with chicken oil (pure rendered chicken fat) with *atsuete*.

Pecho (chicken breast, P48 per stick) is the restaurant's piece de resistance. But also popular are Pa-a (drumstick), P48; Pacpac (wings), P40; Esol (chicken bottom), P40; Atay (liver), P18; Baticolon (gizzard), P18; Dugo (blood), P15; and Liug (neck), P25. They are served hot off the grill.

THUMBS up for Bert Tarrosa's chicken *inasal*

When in Bacolod, get stuffed with the city's filling dishes

CHICKEN *inasal* is served hot off the grill.

Mang Bert was one of the most congenial restaurant hosts we had met this side of Bacolod. He willingly shared information on how *inasal* was marinated and roasted. "No catsup, please!," he quipped.

Surprisingly, Aida's gets its supply of fowl from Manila since, he said, Bacolod has very limited sources for chicken.

There's nothing fancy about Aida's eatery. The place is naturally ventilated, right, no air-conditioning unit but it's cool with music playing all the time. And the service is fast.

American diner

Bob's was the first American diner and drive-in restaurant in Bacolod back in the 1960s. Established by Conchita Varela Sicangco, its first name was Bob's Big Boy, until it was eventually changed to Bob's in 1980.

Its famous giant cheeseburger made a name for the restaurant. And through the years, Bob's has become one of the most successful family-owned restaurants in Bacolod. Today it's being run and managed by Sicangco's children, including husband-and-wife Bobby and Cynthia Magalona.

Any given day, Bob's, already a landmark in Bacolod, is packed with loyal clients, ordering the house specialties—sizzling steak, fried chicken, pizza and gourmet sandwiches.

18TH Pala-Pala offers the bounty of the sea

BOB'S family: Conchita Varela Sicangco, Dr. Homero Sicangco, Cynthia Sicangco-Magalona and Bobby Magalona

The extensive menu also lists hearty soups, vegetables and salads, and pastas. Its fresh *lumpiang ubod* smothered in fragrant garlic has been its top seller as well.

We enjoyed the Family Fiesta Tray, which had all *inasal* favorites—chicken, pork and fish. The Family Wagon consisted of squid rings, baby back ribs and potato wedges.

Dessert at Bob's? Ahh, it's paradise. A cool concoction of strawberry shortcake, Mocha Madness and Pavlova is a total dining experience that should not be missed.

The two-story building is a favorite place for parties and private functions. The spacious ground floor also houses a Mongolian bar.

BOB'S Family Wagon treat: baby back ribs, squid rings, potato wedges and Boston baked beans

Bob's has also branched out to other food-related services such as pastry shops, which now has five branches all over Bacolod. Café Bob's has also been a favorite hangout for good coffee.

'Bagsakan'

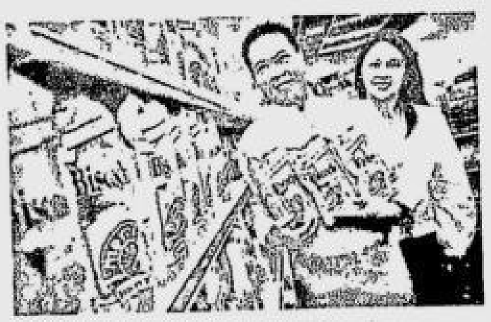
Pala-Pala is a night market, a *bagsakan* of fish where fishing boats and trawlers regularly unload their catch of the day, deep into the night. Bacolod is known for its number of *pala-palas* around the city. It is like *dampa* in Manila, where you choose the freshest of the catch and have them cook it the way you want it.

The 18th Pala-Pala on Lacson Street has been doing well in the business. This rustic place offers a menu that changes with the seasons. Delicious and healthy, it always features the bounty of Bacolod—*gindara*, *tanigue*, deep-sea crab, prawns, scallops, oysters.

Our dinner consisted of *kinilaw na tanigue* with salted egg and black beans, followed by *sinigang na ulo ng tuna*, buttered prawns, sizzling *gindara* steak and scallops cooked in garlic and butter. Most of us washed the meal down with fresh buco juice.

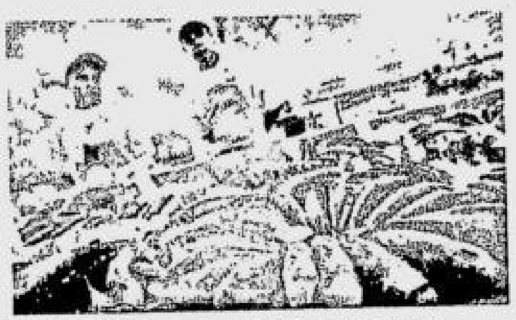
We also had *adobong pusit*. To top things off, we knocked down crabs (*alimango*) from a tank, transformed quickly in a wok. Nothing very fancy, but fresh and sweet. Such comfort food.

The 18th Pala-Pala, owned by siblings José Manuel Lopez and Sylvia Lopez-Golez, offers simple, fresh food, unadorned with any kind of fancy sauce. Just the richness of the sea and the simplicity of the cooking. This kind of food is what makes eating worthwhile.



JONATHAN and Liza Lo of Merci Pasalubong house

BACOLODNONS can't get enough of Chicken Deli's *inasal* treats.



THE DAY'S catch at SM Supermarket

DRIED beef *tapa* at SM Supermarket

BACOLOD Lechon Hauz serves lean and delicious *lechon* stuffed with lemongrass.

Yummy avenue

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Lyn Rillon

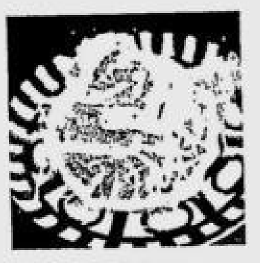
IF YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR food trip around Bacolod City in a clean, air-conditioned environment with a carefully landscaped complex of retail shops and boutiques and a convenient parking area, then make a beeline to SM Bacolod.

Yes, SM Bacolod is also home to some of the trendiest and most talked-about restaurants, food shops and *pasalubong* outlets in town.

Two of the city's most popular restaurants have branches in the mall, so you don't have to go far to find out why they are tops with Bacolodnons.

The two are Chicken Deli and L'Kaisei Japanese restaurant, both owned by a young couple, JB and Marides Ciocon Mapa.

Chicken Deli is a fast-food place for Bacolod's chicken *inasal*—leg, feet, breast, wings, etc. Every order of *inasal* fare is served on a plate designed with banana leaf, which gives a real Pinoy appeal. The place is bright, spacious with nice mural depicting family togetherness.



L'KAISEI Salad: crabmeat and cucumber with Japanese mayo and fish roe

SM Bacolod carries the most delicious Negros food shops

JB AND Marides Mapa, young entrepreneurs of Chicken Deli and L'Kaisei

On its first day of operation in SM, JB estimated that about 2,000 sticks of chicken *inasal* were sold. Quite promising as SM is the third outlet of Chicken Deli. The first is on Lacson Street, the second in Gaisano Mall.

L'Kaisei offers popular Japanese dishes such as sushi, sashimi, tempura, sukiyaki, teppanyaki, donburi.

Kaisei, meaning "star of the sea," has been in the food business for eight years. Its main restaurant is on Lacson Street. It has about 250 dishes on the menu. Its food, which is distinctively good and always fresh, is wallet-friendly.

The place is hip and trendy for a Japanese restaurant. From the outside, L'Kaisei has a welcoming air with its brightly lit façade.

Best crunchy 'lechon'

If you're craving for something crispy, crunchy, filling and mouth-watering, not to mention high in cholesterol, stroll toward SM Food Court and you won't miss Bacolod Lechon Hauz.

Located right at the corner of the food row, the *lechon* place is always bustling with energy and activity. Orders for a plate of *lechon* with its crispy roasted skin, P90, come left and right.

The centerpiece of the place is a whole, lean, delicious *lechon* stuffed tight with lemongrass or *tanglad*, which makes it fragrant and deeply flavored. It is served with either vinegar or liver sauce.

Bacolod Lechon Hauz is run by friends Vic Mendoza, Nora Eubana and Linda Caduhada.

Best 'pasalubong' place

If you find yourself in SM and your flight home is scheduled on that day, there's no need to go out only to buy *pasalubong*.

Merci Pasalubong house is right smack on the ground floor near SM Food Court for your convenience.

Merci ("thank you" in French) is a place full of take-home treats, from *piaya* of different flavors—mango, *ube*, pineapple—to toasted *mamon*, *barquillos*, tarts, *biscocho*. Owner Jonathan Manuel Lo said Merci had been in the breads and pastries business for the past 12 years.

His *pasalubong* shop started only two years ago, but it's now doing good business for its wide selection of snacks.

The deli counter is well-supplied with interesting treats: squash pretzels, vegetable crackers, banana chips, butterscotch bars, *lubid-lubid* (*pilipit*), cheese tarts.

It is also well patronized for its *otap*, *broas*, *puto seko* and assorted *pastillas*. Of course, Merci products are inimitable, and they are always good to bring back to Manila as *pasalubong*. The staff is nice, efficient and very accommodating

SM supermarket

For foodies, just don't leave SM Bacolod without checking out the supermarket. Nearly everything you need at home is there. All ingredients essential to home cooking are available: *longganisa*; fruits, vegetables; fresh meat and fish; vinegar; and even some Cebuano specialities, such as *danggit* and *daing*.

But one that clicked best with Manilans like us was the beef *tapa*, spicy and regular. There's nothing like the *tapa* the way the Bacolod butchers do it. The beef is sliced very thin and then rolled like masking tape. When you fry the *tapa*, it is crisp, not leathery. Really good!

Bringing home tasty Negros with you

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Lyn Rillon

Negros Occidental's take-home delicacies are legendary. Here are choice places to source them

EXCEPT FOR THE MOST frugal and the most stingy, visitors can hardly leave the City of Smiles without a bag or two of *piaya*, *barquillos* and *biscocho*, which are some of the more famous Visayan *pasalubong* or take-home food for kin and pals. Let's not forget *dulce gatas*, a pastry made from fresh carabao's milk.

And, if you're still wanting for an assortment of *pasalubong*, then waste no time and visit Café Calea on 23rd Lacson Street. Or visit James Ham in Central Market and El Ideal in Silay City.

Café Calea is highly recommended for its wide selection of cakes and pastries, which are conveniently packed in a sturdy, attractive box if you wish to buy and fly them home.

Yummiest choices include chocolate cake (super moist with caramel cream in the middle layer); pecan pie (buttery, not too sweet and with a nice crust); mocha sansrival; baked cheesecake; frozen mango royal cake; chocolate cream puff; fruit trifle (ice-cream cake).

Rosario Ma. Consing owns and runs this 18-year-old bakeshop. Calea is named after Consing's two daughters, Carissa and Lean.

LUZ SIA, proprietor of James Ham

Christmas or not, Bacolod's James Ham is your best bet if you want to experience an old, reliable food treat.

Founded in 1966, James Ham has been a staple in most of Bacolodnon holiday food-fare. The homemade ham, prepared by couple Luz and Alberto Sia, is sold every day and displayed in a tray encased in a glass shelf.

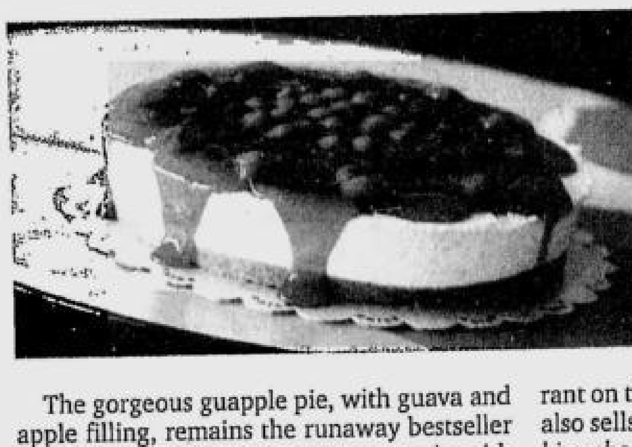
If you're lucky to see the couple in the store, they give you a good discount. One-fourth kilo of honey-cured ham costs P185; P370 for half a kilo; and P740 for a kilo.

The couple has been supplying honey-cured ham for the Iloilo market and has been exporting it to other countries through the help of loyal clients.

Now, who can resist the guapple pie, coconut pie, fresh *lumpiang ubod*, *suman latik* of El Ideal? These delicacies are a legend in Silay City, and El Ideal is a landmark bakery that has been churning Negros favorites for the past 80 years.

EL IDEAL'S famous guapple pie

SLICES of James' homemade honey-cured ham



CAFÉ CALEA'S white chocolate cheesecake with raspberry sauce

The gorgeous guapple pie, with guava and apple filling, remains the runaway bestseller for years. It's followed by coconut pie with fresh, young coconut layered between flaky crusts; and fresh *lumpiang ubod* or spring roll of coconut pith.

This successful open bakeshop and restaurant on the ground floor of an ancestral house also sells old-fashioned cookies such as crusty *biscocho*, macaroon-shaped *pacencia*, white sugar-smeared *bañadas*, *galletas*.

So, take your pick from all these delicious delicacies and proudly bring Bacolod's culinary goodness home with you.

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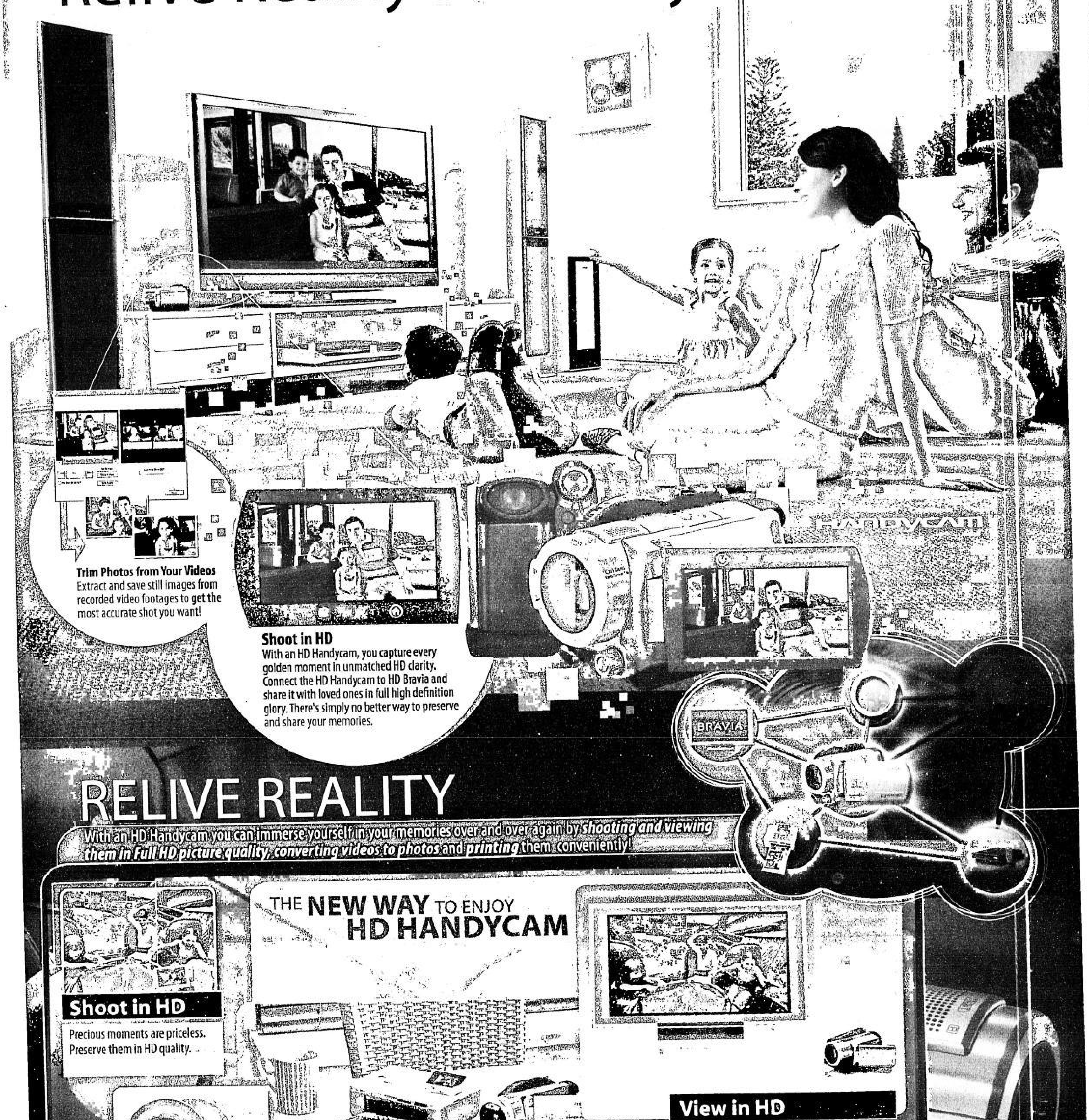

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Bacolodnons need not cross Guimaras Strait to shop, now that SM has pitched its tent in the City of Smiles

SM City Bacolod atrium with Fritz Ynfante mural of Masskara festival

Malling closer to home

By Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Lyn Rillon

WHEN SHOE Mart opened its first outlet in Western Visayas in Iloilo City in the late 1970s, people from Bacolod in Negros Occidental would take the early-morning ferryboat and cruise for almost two hours across Guimaras Strait to Iloilo, spend the whole day roaming Calle Real and shopping at SM, then take the late-afternoon ferry back to Bacolod with their hoard.

If anything, that demonstrates the spending power of the sugar-rich Negrense, but it had also become cause for eternal amusement to the Ilongos, with whom they hold a kind of sibling rivalry.

The Ilongos would wonder: If these people are really big spenders, why are there more banks and shopping arcades in Iloilo? And why didn't Shoe Mart open its branch in Bacolod in the first place?

And the Bacoleños would retort: Simply because most of the really rich Negrense would rather shop in Manila, Hong Kong, Europe and America, so such establishments don't find it a wise investment or feasible market strategy to open their branches in Bacolod.

SHOPPING to their hearts' desire

We don't know how true that is, but for decades it has remained as a sort of urban legend. Through the years SM has opened two more outlets in Iloilo, the latest being that monolith between Jaro and Mandurriao (visible thousands of feet below as the plane descends on the airport)—but people of Bacolod had to wait three decades to finally have their mall and shop in it, too.

On March 2, SM City Bacolod opened on a 16-ha lot across Rizal Street, the 28th mall of SM Prime Holdings. This is a reclaimed area near the harbor of Guimaras Strait, giving mall rats a whiff of sea air as well as a view of the busy waterway.

At 60,000 sqm, the mall of two single-level buildings connected by a bridgeway is smaller than SM City Iloilo, which has four levels and four wings—but it sure looks classier, as it has been patterned after SM's banner store Mall of Asia, the walls light-colored, the ceilings very high, adorned with exuberant murals by Fritz Ynfante depicting Bacolod's Masskara festival.

It has a hexagonal grand façade fixtured with signage. The exterior walls are cream and pearl-gray, the lightness of color making it, together with the one in Baguio, distinctive among SM malls.

An alfresco dining area called Fiesta Strip runs on both sides of Rizal Street. The parking lot can accommodate 1,000 cars and 300 motorcycles.

Also, there are two transport terminals with a travelers' lounge, a ferry ticket counter, waiting area, baggage counter, and (top this!) hot-and-cold shower.

Inside the mall are some 200 tenants, including SM anchor stores, fashion boutiques, home and appliance centers, computer stores; as well as local and international fast-food chains, food retailers, specialty restaurants, the inevitable food court.

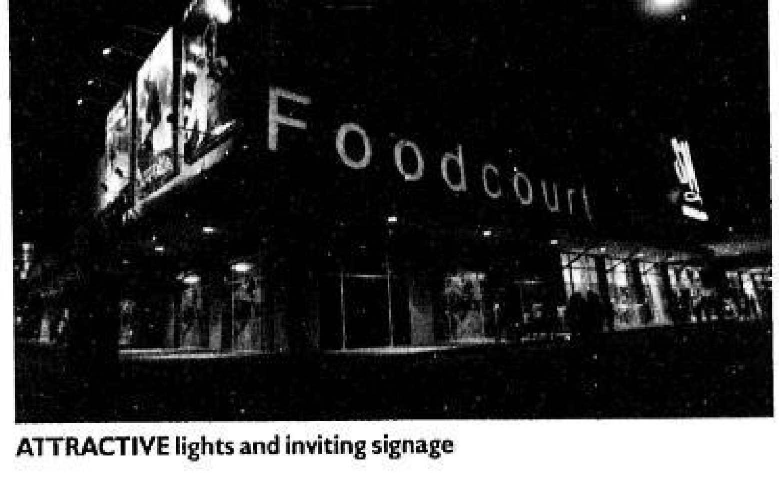
There's an events center for premieres; a theater convertible to a venue for concerts, plays, product launches, conventions; and the inevitable cineplex.

The mall has ramps, railings and elevators for the handicapped, and a room for breast-feeding mothers. It has a sewage-treatment plant which recycles water, and is touted to be the only mall in the city that uses waterless urinals.

SM City Bacolod was constructed by Design Associates (design architect); WV Coscolluela and Associates (architect of record); DA Abcede and Associates (project manager); and Monolith Construction and Development Corporation.

Despite the economic and cultural backlash that the malling of cities entails, it can never be denied that it makes life easier. And now the Bacoleños wouldn't feel so inferior to their relatives and friends across the strait, as well as they can now shop to their hearts' content.

UNIQUE feature in a mall



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Hello Tomorrow
AVON

Avon's Hello Tomorrow Fund aims to empower women by awarding grants to selected individuals and nonprofit organizations

Tomorrow's promise

By Bianca Consunji
Contributor

MANY PEOPLE DISMISS cosmetic companies as frivolous corporations that prey on the vanity of women. While this may be true for some, Avon can proudly set itself apart from the rest with the launch of its latest advocacy, the Hello Tomorrow Fund.

The Hello Tomorrow Fund is Avon's latest project that aims to empower women by awarding grants to selected individuals and nonprofit organizations. The grants fall into two categories: the Community Service grant, which aims to expand current nonprofit projects that cater to women's needs, such as support groups, women's centers, shelters and the like. The Awareness and Outreach grant, on the other hand, will be awarded to programs or people who advocate women's issues with the aim of inspiring and empowering women.

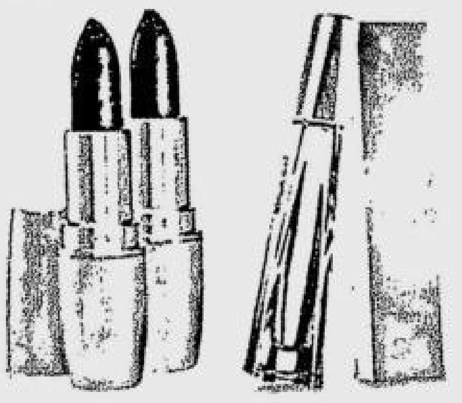
"Hello Tomorrow is Avon's opportunity to inspire and engage those around us to speak with one voice," said Andrea Jung, chair and CEO of Avon. "[The project] is our chance to transform the lives of women worldwide through economic empowerment, philanthropy, and outstanding corporate citizenship."

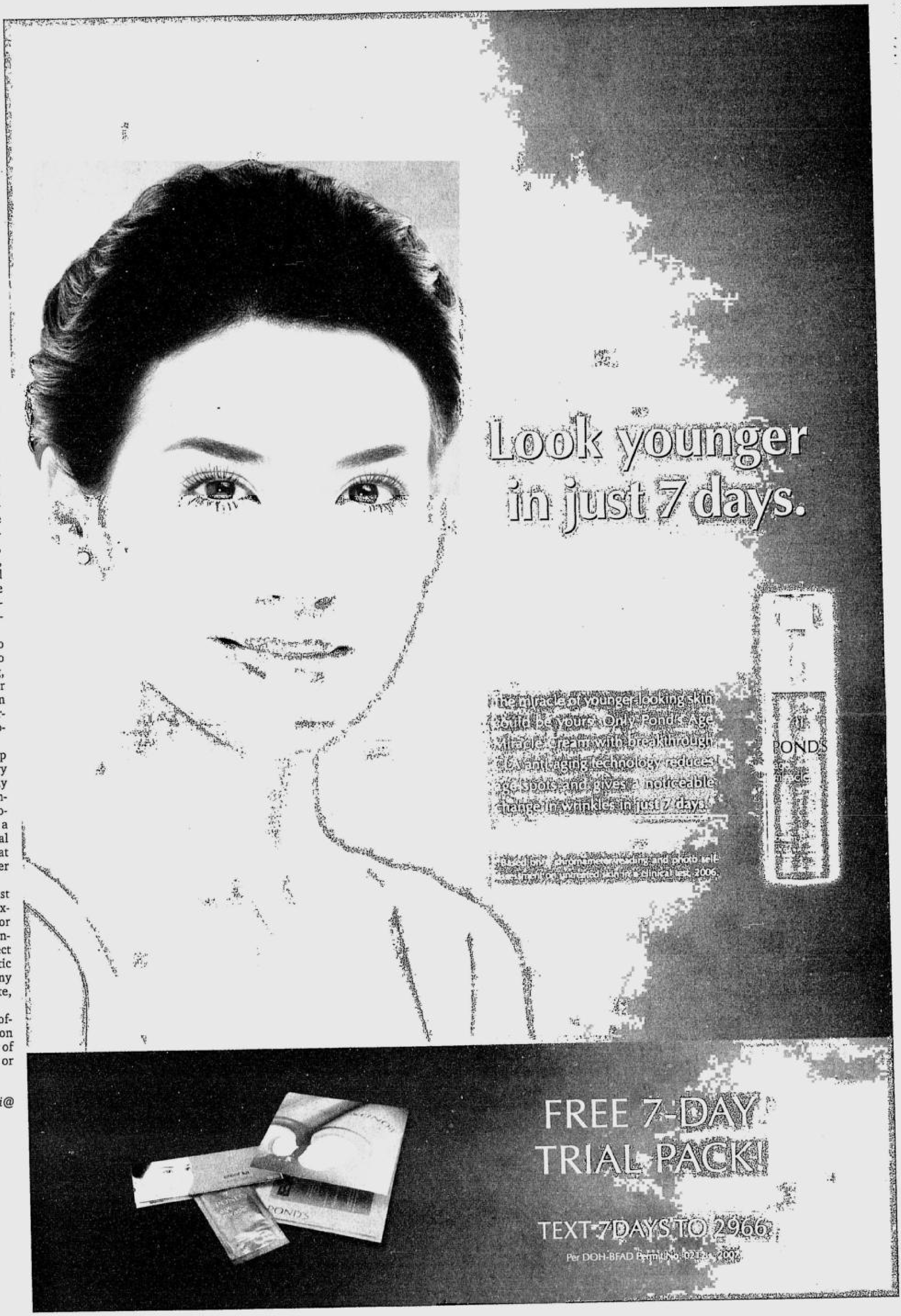
Starting May, an individual or a group will be given a cash grant of P100,000 every month for a year, with the awardees evenly divided in the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao areas. Any individual can apply, provided she (or he) is at least 21 years old, a resident Filipino citizen of good moral standing, and with an existing project that shows how she or he helps to empower women.

Organizations, on the other hand, must be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to be considered for the award. The criteria for selection includes the existence of a current project that empowers women; a solid and realistic plan for spending the grant and raising any additional plans if needed; and concrete, measurable and achievable outcomes.

Application forms are available at the office of the general manager, 10/F, Gercon Plaza, 7901 Makati Ave, Makati; or at any of the Avon branches. Call 8642900 or 8642902.

E-mail the author at biancaconsunji@yahoo.com

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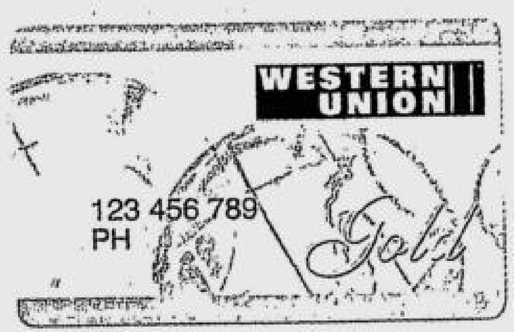
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Treats for 3 at fun park

STAR CITY, THE COUNTRY'S FAVORITE recreation park, ties up with SM Advantage Card to bring you *"saya* to the max."

Starting April 1, an SM Advantage, SM Advantage Prestige and BDO Rewards cardholder may simply present his card and a valid ID at the Star City entrance to avail of a 20-percent discount on ride-all-you-can tickets for him and two of his companions.

It's a treat for three that's hard to beat because Star City is also the only weather-proof recreation center with a sprawling, fully air-conditioned indoor complex packed with breathtaking rides, exciting games and awesome walk-throughs—plus endless rows of novelty shops and food stalls that will surely score a hit with park-goers of all ages.

This summer, bring fun and excitement to the max with your family and friends, only with SM Advantage Card and Star City!

Promo period is April 1, 2007-April 30, 2008 (except Dec. 20, 2007-January 2, 2008).

Open daily 2 p.m. onward, Star City is conveniently located at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

CANCER Warrior kids pose with Enchanted Kingdom vice president for operations Federico Juliano.

KEVIN gets his arms painted.

SISTERS Preach and Trixie at the Rialto

A day of fun, magic and storytelling

THE CANCER WARRIOR Foundation, a group founded by cancer survivor James Auste, works to improve care for cancer-stricken children. The foundation, together with Enchanted Kingdom, recently gifted 12 cancer-afflicted children with a day of magic.

The group's visit to Enchanted Kingdom was prompted by a wish by one of the beneficiaries to visit the park. However, instead of just one kid getting a day at the park, 12 children who were celebrating their birthdays in January and February were treated to a special fun-filled day.

The children and their companions enjoyed over 23 world-class rides and attractions that the theme park offered. Enchanted Kingdom characters led by Eldar the Wizard welcomed them and set them off to enjoy the rides.

At lunch, the children feasted on the party meals prepared for them, and later participated in the free face painting and balloon twisting activities.

Their afternoon was capped by a storytelling session with television host and young actress Roxanne Guinoo, of ABS-CBN's "Star Circle Quest" fame, who decided to share this special day with the children.

Roxanne read the story "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Raquel" from Adarna Publishing House. The recipient of the 1998 PBBY-Salanga Writer's Prize-Honorable Mention award, the story is about Raquel, a girl envied by her cousin for her hair that has the most wonderful colors—red, yellow and blue. Little does her cousin know that underneath Raquel's wonderful hair is a sad secret. Like many children from the Cancer Warrior Foundation, Raquel suffers from leukemia, which is the most common type of cancer among children. The book is by Luis Gatmaitan with illustrations by Beth Doctolero.

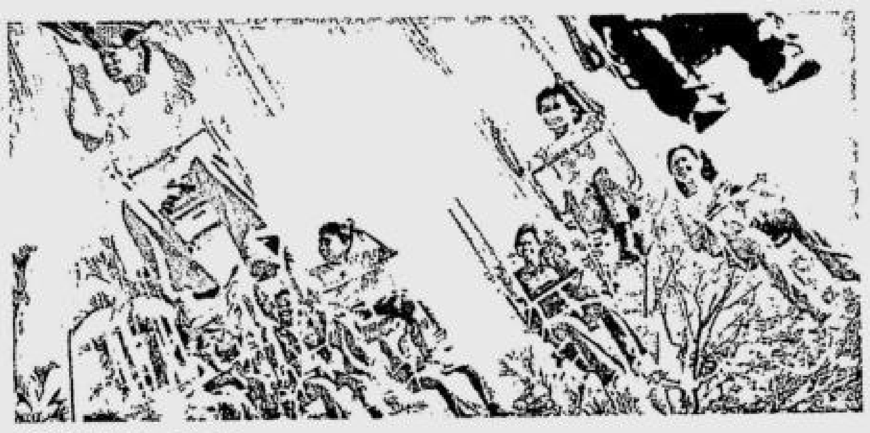
WITH ELDAR the Wizard and Ate Roxanne

Celebrity storytelling is one of the theme park's best-loved joint projects with Adarna Publishing House, the country's premier publishing company for children's literature. Through this event, Enchanted Kingdom brings together a fusion of Philippine art, culture and celebrity entertainment as the authors, illustrators and the celebrities all become art wizards of the day for the kids.

The theme park also sees Celebrity Storytelling as a way to present featured authors and book illustrators as meaningful role models for kids who want to be writers someday. At the end of the storytelling sessions, the children receive complimentary copies of the Adarna Storybook from Enchanted Kingdom.

The Cancer Warriors' visit to Enchanted Kingdom was a fulfillment of the theme park's corporate social responsibility creed of bringing magic to kids who needed them most.

Enchanted Kingdom is located in San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna. It is open Wednesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 8302111-16 or 8436074-78. Visit www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.



AT THE Flying Fiesta

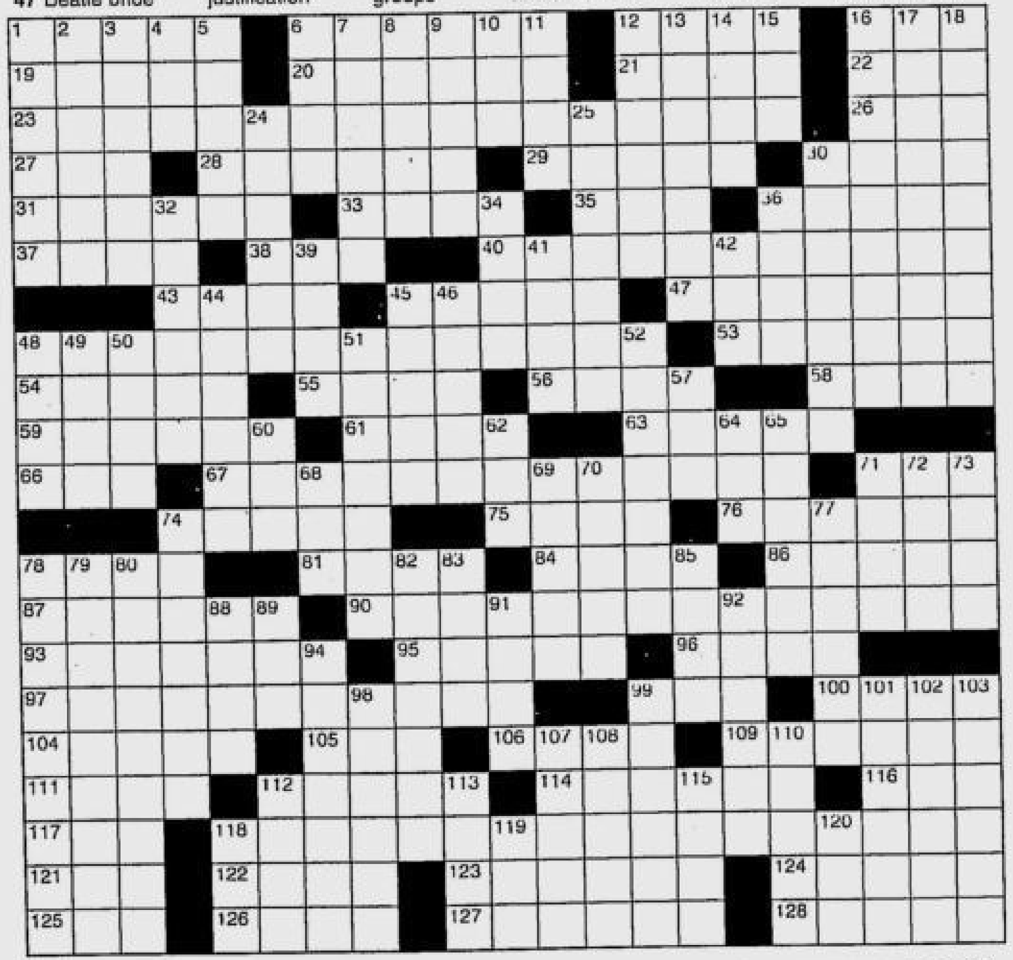
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

DIVERSION

ACROSS
1 Crystal-lined rock
6 Vast desert
12 Thom — (shoe brand)
16 Wee demon
19 Outstrip
20 Paid the penalty (for)
21 "Why would —?"
22 School lobby org.
23 Battle of Normandy code name
26 Blast source
27 Fam. reunion attendee
28 Rang out
29 Clamorous
30 Portion (out)
31 One feeling around in the dark
33 Strong cleansers
35 Actor Majors
36 "Splish Splash" singer Bobby
37 Ms. Kett of comics
38 Kin of -ette
40 Area of difficulty
43 Impale
45 Draw — on (aim at)
47 Beatle bride
48 Exclusively controlled commodity
53 More uptight
54 Rub away
55 Slices off
56 Old flames
58 Cincinnati team
59 Cruise sites
61 Membership cost
63 Out of practice
66 — -Mart
67 It'll keep you afloat
71 Copier clog
74 Disinfectant spray
75 Utah ski resort
76 Port on Puget Sound
78 107, to Livy
81 Andean land
84 Parma locale
86 Ming things
87 Mu preceder
90 Minimization of potential business losses
93 Sling mud at
95 Mortise's counterpart
96 Canterbury story
97 Totally insufficient justification
99 Deg. above a master's
100 — -duck session
104 "The West Wing" actor Jimmy
105 Universal beverage
106 Subside
109 Maid's tool
111 Play prize
112 Paperless tests
114 Resentful
116 "... good witch — bad witch?"
117 Hairy "Addams Family" cousin
118 Theme of this puzzle
121 One of the Stooges
122 Need for many a 118-Across
123 Hopi home
124 "Fur —" (piano favorite)
125 Make a mistake
126 Tipplers
127 Most foxlike
128 Religious splinter groups

DOWN
1 Singer Strait
2 Pro
3 Leopardlike cat
4 Article in Aachen
5 Give a thrill
6 See 64-Down
7 Reef rings
8 Sweetheart
9 Battery terminus
10 Race, as a motor
11 Yemeni port
12 Environment
13 Not far off
14 Well-ventilated
15 Actor Romero
16 Put between
17 Brought up
18 Inventors might contact them
24 Bullring hero
25 Spinning office file
30 Stonework
32 Far Eastern shrine
34 Suffix with young or prank
36 Hockey ploy
39 Peddle
41 Lawn tool
42 Auction unit
44 For all to see
45 Intensify, slangily
46 More despicable
48 Catty remark
49 Bicolor whale
50 Yuletide
51 Singer in the Alps
52 Tract of ground
57 Dodge Durango, e.g.
60 Female kin
62 Ionian or Aegean
64 With 6-Down, shove off
65 Globetrot
68 Dandy dude
69 Replay mode, for short
70 Actor Hawke
71 San —, CA
72 "You said it!"
73 Ship spar
74 Freedom
77 Caravan creatures
78 Info in a college course list
79 Regulating the diameter of blood vessels
80 Ink stamp, for one
82 Prescribed procedures
83 Finds a function for
85 Swearword
88 Anti-alcohol individuals
89 Enzyme ending
91 Was familiar with
92 Wandered restlessly
94 Pull, as teeth
98 Quits
99 Rose parts
101 Like some bombs
102 Slightest
103 Rubs away
107 "— Road" (Beatles album)
108 Mournful mother of myth
110 Spurs (on)
112 Potpourri
113 Drinks slowly
115 Jogging pace
118 DJ's stack
119 — -de-sac (blind alley)
120 Stein drink



answer on page E3

Dance-and-music benefit caps Women's Month

TO CAP THE END OF WOMEN'S Month celebrations, and to mark the third anniversary of the enactment of the Anti-Violence against Women Law, "I'm Every Woman," an all-women dance-music-and-advocacy benefit night, will be held March 31, 9 p.m., at 7th Note Bar and Restaurant in Makati Golf Club, Malugay Street, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City.

Aside from all-night dancing with music from the '70s to today, the program includes live music by "Latin Queen" Nikkie Mossman and her band. Veteran singer Pat Castillo is guest.

Prizes will be given away by companies supportive of gender equality: the VMV Group, David's Salon, Unilever and DKT Philippines.

Tickets are available at Pride Exchange on Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, and at Santuario Spa on Orosa Street, Malate.

A minimum of five tickets may be delivered in Metro Manila before March 29 upon request through Tonet at 0906-5159001 or Mari at 0918-9366898.

Other Women's Month activities this March included Avon' s launch of the Hello Tomorrow Women's Fund.

This was followed by the week-long 13th Feminist Film Festival, an annual event at the Cinema Adarna sponsored by the University of the Philippines Film Institute and the diplomatic community.

On March 8, International Women's Day, at the Quezon City Hall, a women's caravan protested poverty and the unsolved killings.

Meanwhile, Sen. Pia Cayetano led the Second Pinay in Action All-women's Run last March 18.

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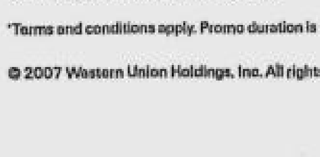

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*Terms and conditions apply. Promo duration is from January 27, 2007 - December 31, 2007. See countertop teasers for details.

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EMILY'S POST

Emily Marcelo

Falling in love with love— again and again

DEAR EMILY,

I am 35 years old and I keep falling in love with both sexes, though never at the same time. Falling in love is becoming synonymous with disaster.

Although I know already from the start how each love story would end, I can't keep myself from plunging into it.

I am not promiscuous. I've always kept long relationships. I once had a six-year long-distance affair with a guy. He broke up with me the day I excitedly thought he would propose marriage.

Forgetting him wasn't that difficult because my best girlfriend was there the day I cried, screamed and cried again.

Months later, I was in love again—with her. For the next five years, she was all I knew.

Then she met a guy who eventually became her husband and it was another dagger that almost killed me—but life went on.

In 2000, I met another woman who wooed me like no other. In less than a year I found out she was seeing another woman, too.

Will I never learn? Maybe never because later I found myself in love again with another woman. For the next four years, we had a relationship. We only parted when I went abroad to work.

When I came home for a vacation last year, I immediately went to see her and she told me flatly that she wanted me out of her life.

Going back to my work abroad, I concentrated on my job but, again, I fell in love with a very young office mate, a guy. But the age gap took its toll on us. He did not want anybody to know about us.

Obviously, he was ashamed of me. In the end, I broke up with him. I'm back home for another vacation, wounded once more.

Now that I have time to think, I feel so tired and so hurt by a lot of things. I really miss my last boyfriend and, yes, I really miss my last girlfriend, too.

Is there a heart more stupid and foolish than this?

STRUGGLING HEART

Welcome to the Lonely Hearts' Club, girl! Keep in mind that heartlessness knows no gender. Clearly, you have not learned your lesson despite your serial relationships.

And why call yourself stupid for constantly falling in love? Falling in love is the most wonderful feeling in the world. It gives a lift to your walk, puts you in a very good disposition and makes even a driving rain seem romantic.

Your boat just hasn't come in yet and, at 35, this should be no cause for alarm at all.

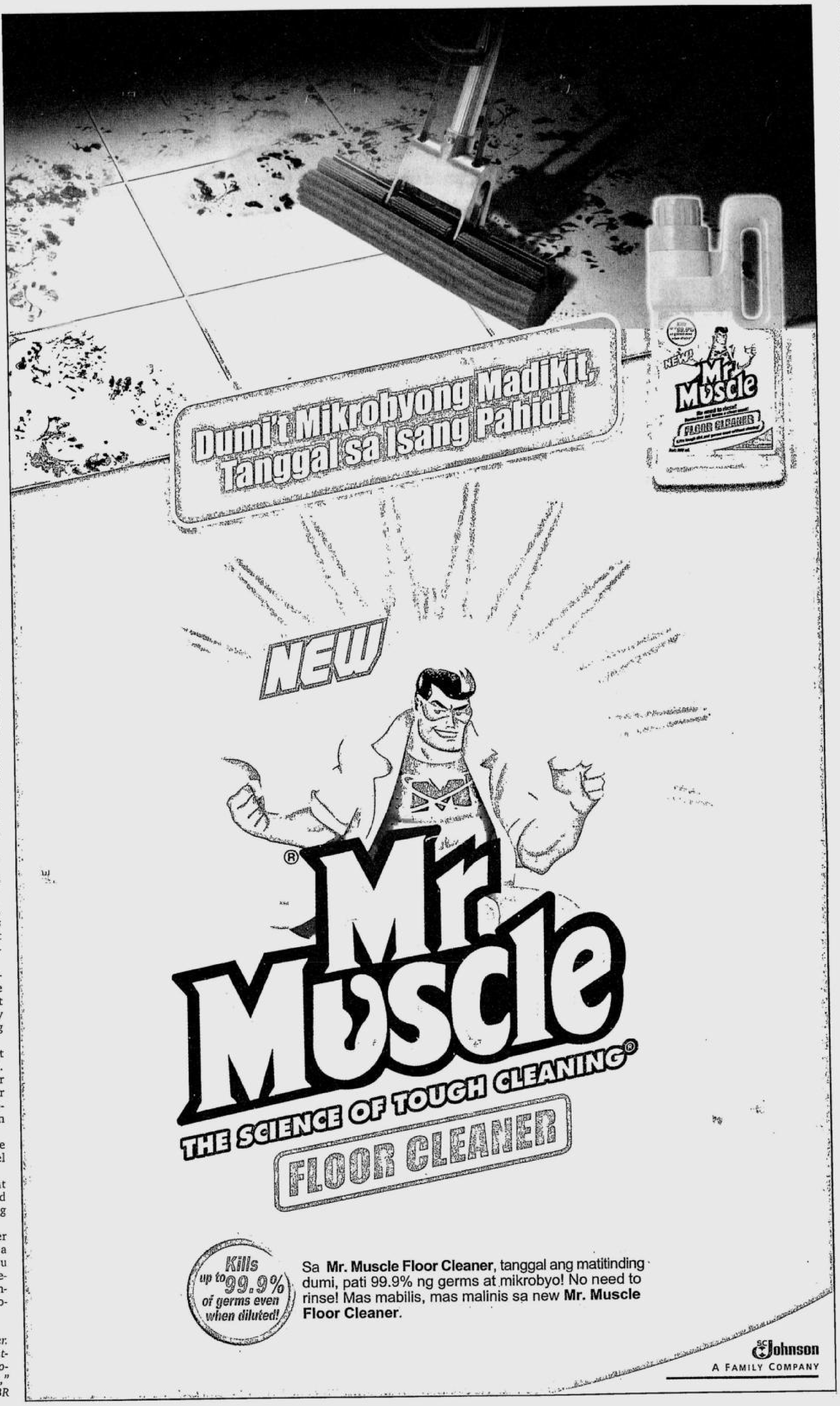
What is apparent is that, despite your determination to obliterate love from your life, you get sidetracked and give in to romance anyway. You seem to live only when you get into an affair!

Do you see your worth only through the eyes of the other person, or do you feel you're only alive if you're in love?

I feel there's a deep vacuum in you that needs to get filled up all the time and which, unfortunately, attracts the wrong types constantly in both sexes.

Continue falling in love with whomever you please, but please set your standards a wee bit higher. Make the person woo you and prove his/her worth and integrity before serving yourself with all the trimmings on a silver platter. Do this in memory of all your failed affairs.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.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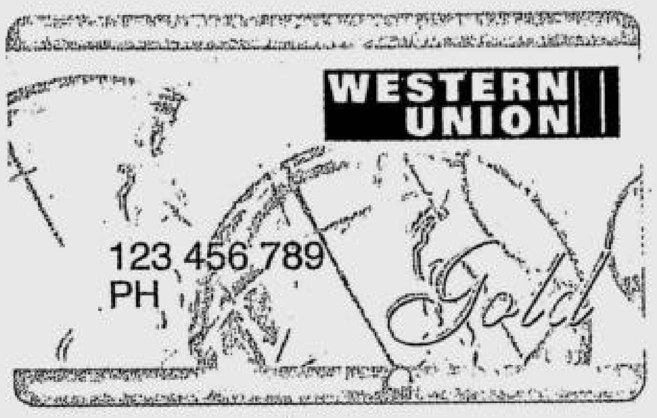

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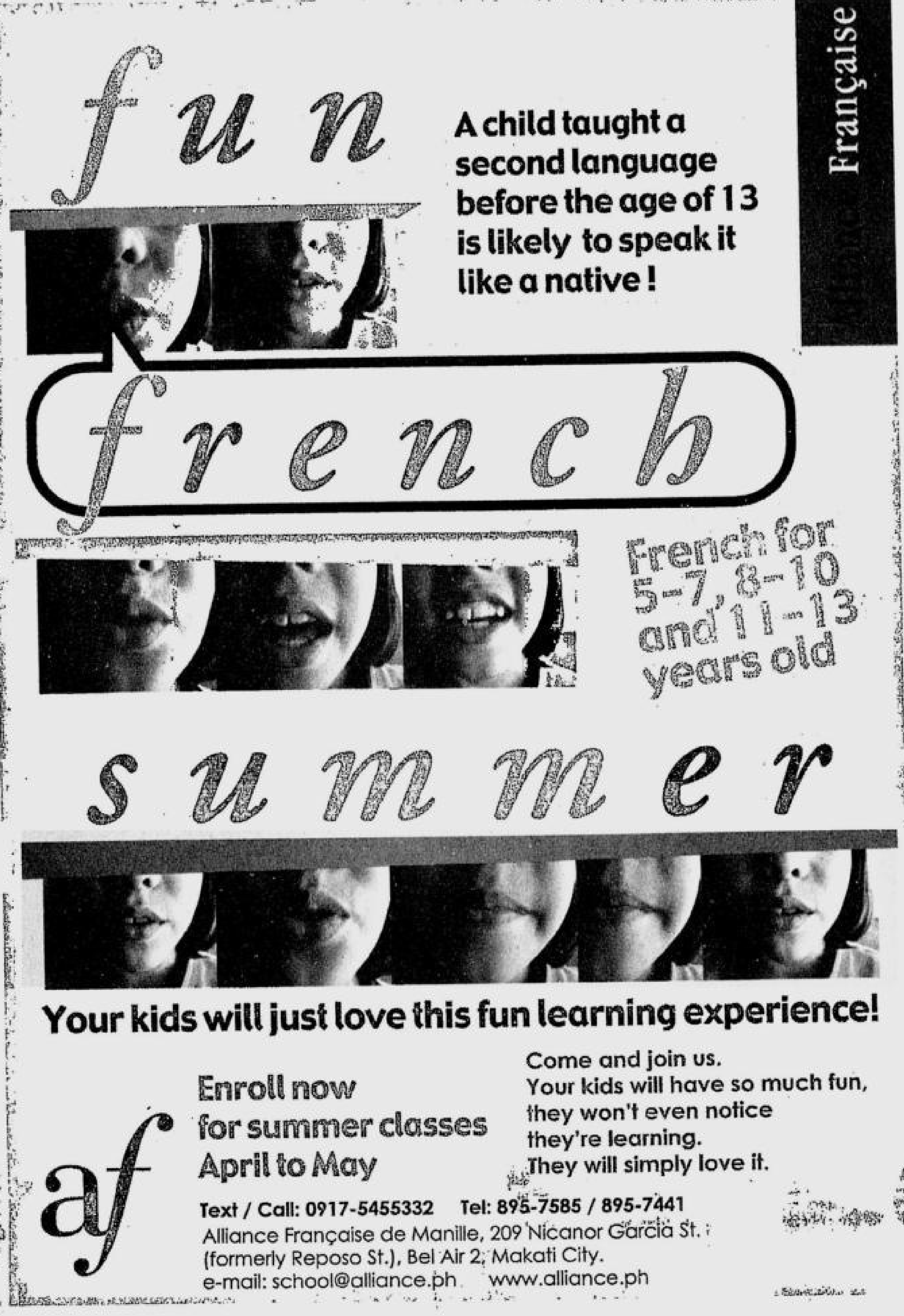
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TRAVEL BRIEFS

ASIANA AIRLINES

New flights to Paris

Asiana Airlines (OZ) has become the third carrier allowed to service the Seoul-Paris route. It will fly the route three times a week beginning March 2008.

Korea's Ministry of Construction and Transportation said air passenger services for the route would go up to four times a week beginning March 2010. Asiana Airlines, established in 1988, has been recognized for Best Onboard Service and Flight Attendants by Global Traveler for two consecutive years. It got the Airline Excellence Award and World's Best Cabin Staff by London-based researcher Skytrax. In the Philippines, Asiana flies out of Manila, Cebu and Clark.

Four-day festival in Cotabato

The best of Region XII and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will be showcased March 31-April 3 in Cotabato City.

The four-day cultural festival "Kuyog" will feature indigenous arts and crafts, sports, and cuisine of Central Mindanao and ARMM. A pet project of the Department of Trade regional director for South Central Mindanao Sohura T. Dimaampao, the festival is a continuing program of WOW Philippines' Best of the Regions. Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, is expected to attend the opening March 31 at the South Seas Mall in Cotabato City.

Special deals in Bora

Chalet Tirol in Boracay offers great deals this season.

The beach house has a clear view of the sea and is walking distance to dive shops, horseback riding stables, Fairways and Bluewaters, Newcoast, Boracay Golf Course, Cocomangas and Pier 1. The privately owned beach resort offers airport transfers, laundry services and a standby generator for power interruptions. Chalet Tirol (6336-2883948, 0927-4922443) is located at Boat Station One.

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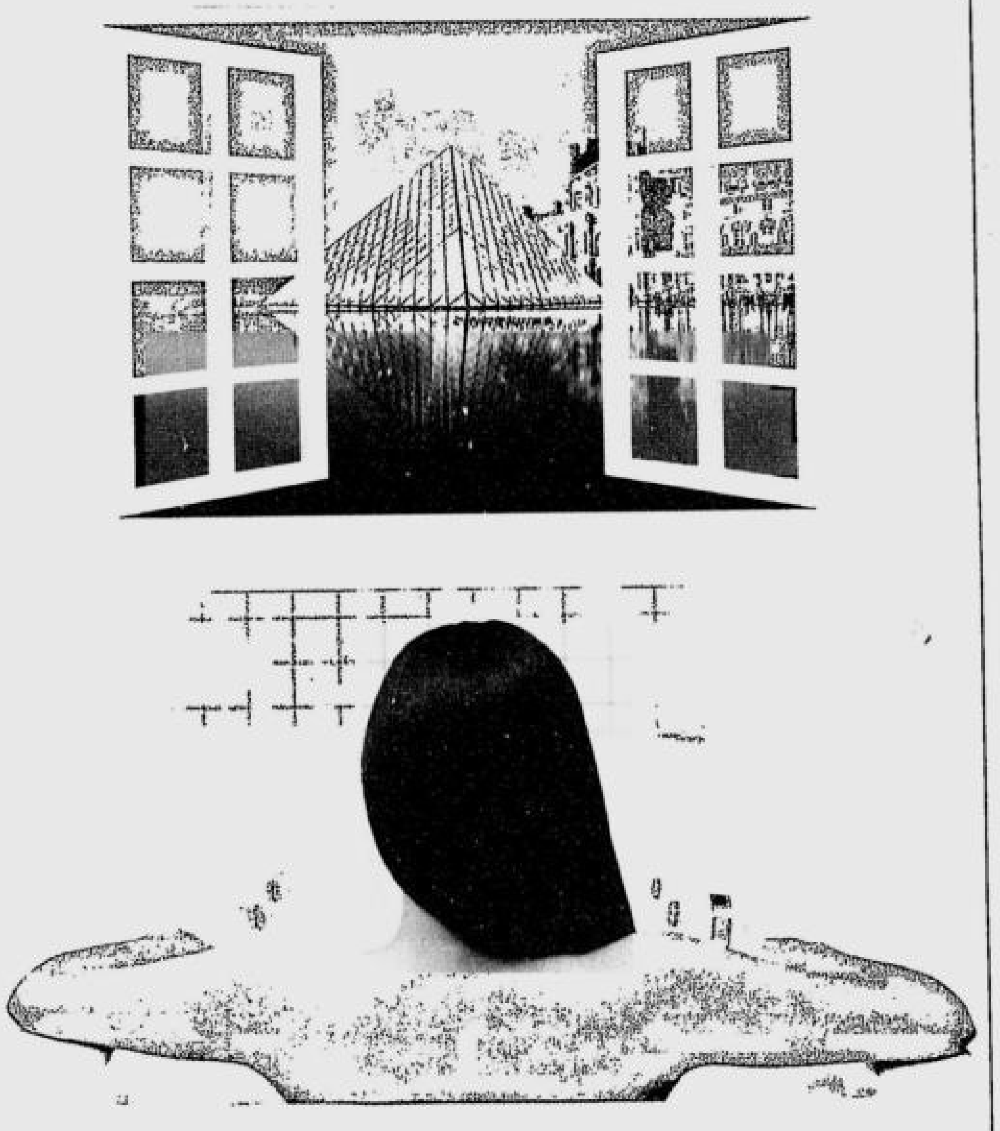

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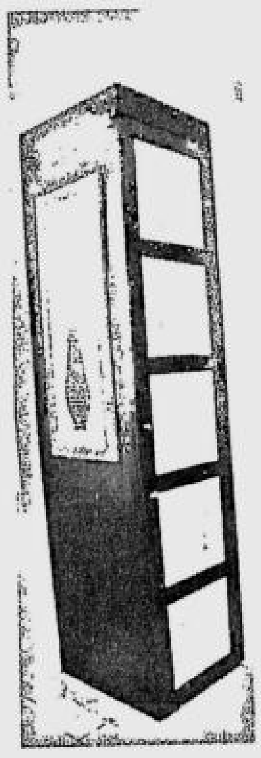
Sunday LifeStyle

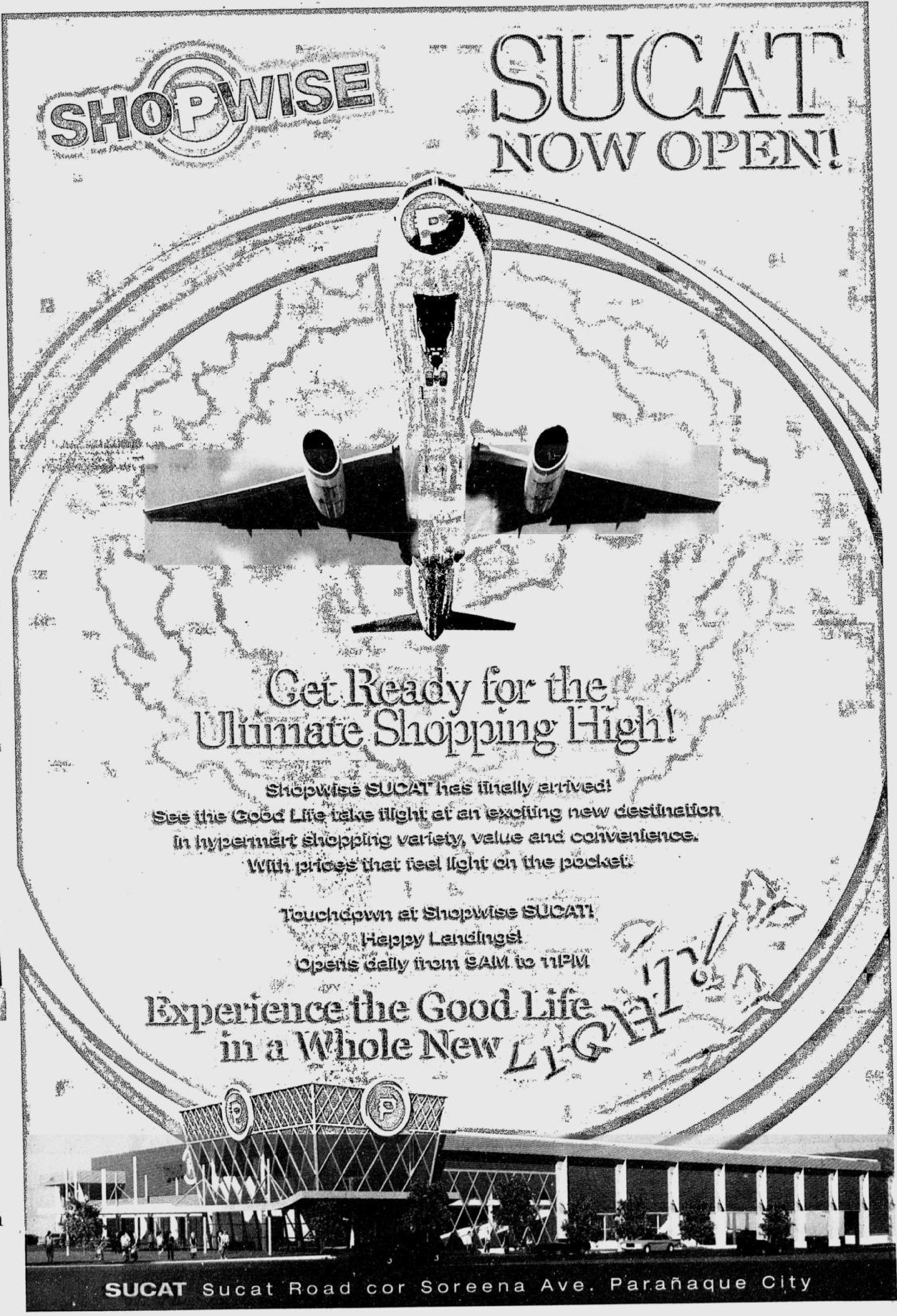
Zen in orange

STORY ON PAGE H4

at HOME



Luxuriant citrus shades are this young man's idea of serene living



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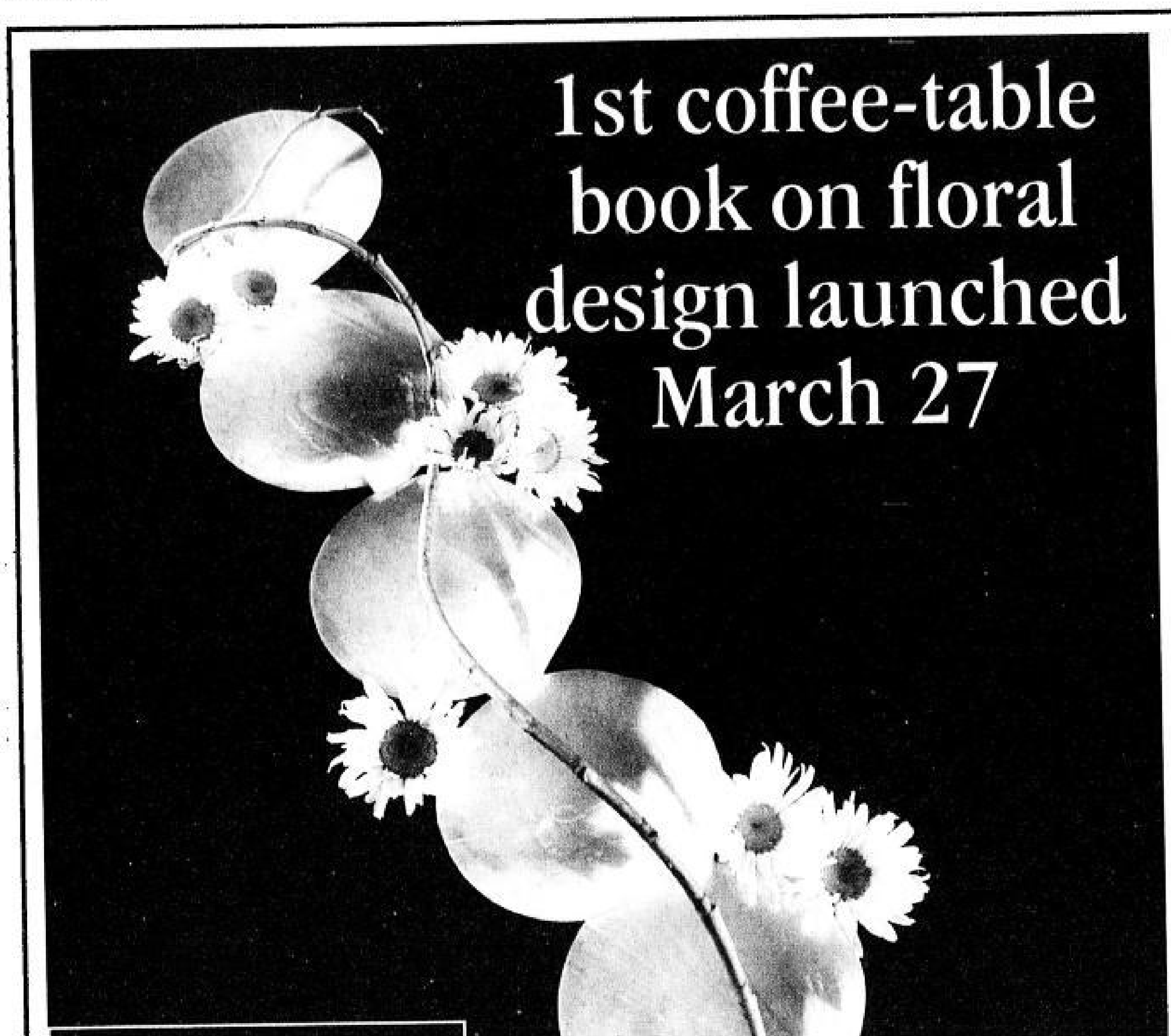
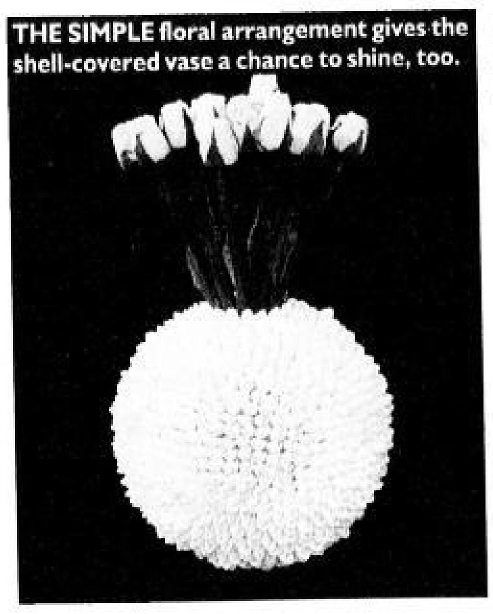
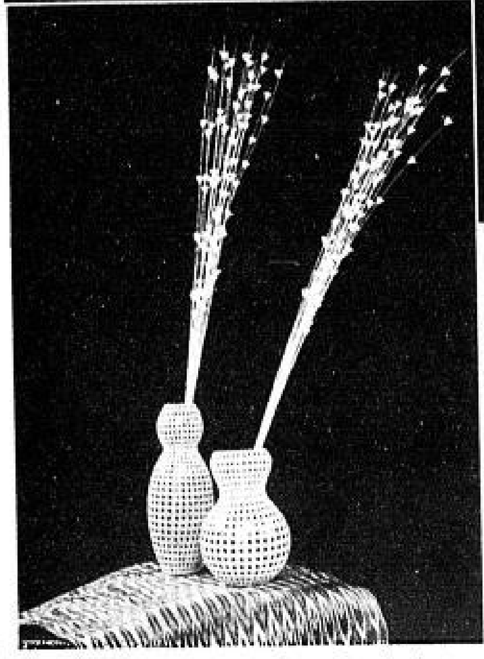


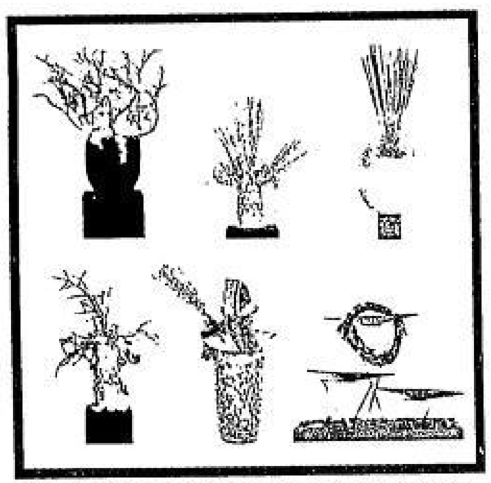
1st coffee-table book on floral design launched March 27



THE SIMPLE floral arrangement gives the shell-covered vase a chance to shine, too.

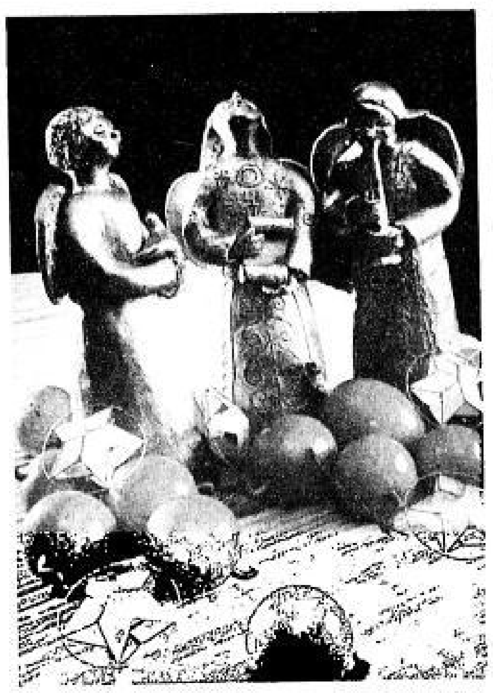


DRIED flowers and simple native baskets make an elegant combination.



UNUSUAL containers, as well as materials make these arrangements look like art pieces.

CUNA



CUNA always surprises and delights with his combination of materials.

RACHY CUNA, DUBBED THE FLORAL architect for his innovative and trend-setting arrangements, will launch the first-ever coffee-table book on Philippine floral design, March 27, at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila.

With "Adornments, Floral Inspirations by Rachy Cuna," the stylist, who wields magic with his flowers, shares the wonders of floral design, particularly with "those still searching for inspiration."

Of Cuna's work, Imelda Cojuangco says: "His ultimate goal is to create an atmosphere, not just an arrangement."

"He is a theatrical dreamer that produces and executes his dreams into marvelous creations!" adds Dean White, international chair of the World Flower Council.

Jaime Zobel de Ayala says: "Bravo is the one word that comes to mind when I think of Rachy Cuna's work, a word he himself frequently uses when he is impressed or delighted with something he sees."

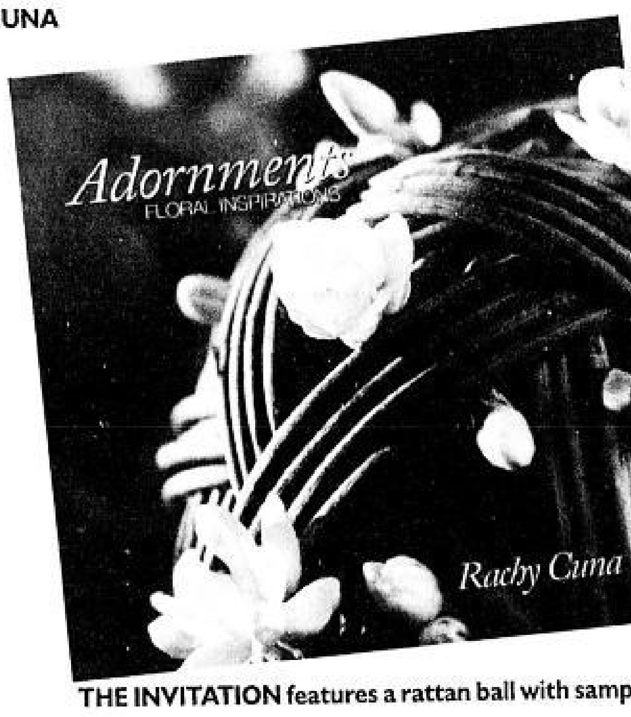
"Every woman should have Rachy Cuna to call," says Presy Ramos. "Oh, Rachy, sorcerer and sourcer of nature's gems and germs, will you, can you collect my tears and turn them into shining stars?" adds Jullie Yap Daza.

Published by the University of Santo Tomas Press, with foreword by Rev. Fr. Isidro Abaño, "Adornments, Floral Inspirations by Rachy Cuna" is a collection of exquisite arrangements and installations, showcasing Philippine arts and crafts.

The author, through the book, aims to inspire and instruct the reader in the art of using flowers and "anything you can find around you" to celebrate a joyous occasion, convey a message, or simply brighten up a room.

"Adornments, Floral Inspirations by Rachy Cuna" is expected to come in handy for everyone who needs the drama, magic, and miracle of flowers.

The coffee-table book will be available in leading bookstores nationwide.



THE INVITATION features a rattan ball with sampaguitas.

ANTICA has classic lines and a rich decoration achieved by combining gold and silver leaf.

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Poetry in gla

CIVE IS A GLASSWARE CRAFTING company that employs prestigious collaborators in international design such as Philippe Starck, Marturano and Renzo Piano.

The Italian brand, founded in the 1950s, was initiated as a cooperative of glass masters from Empoli, a Tuscan city in one of the top historic districts known for the art and culture of glass.

Handcrafting and artisan techniques express the poetics of Cive, light years away from the logic of mass serial production. Cive believes in the "living" aspect of human action, that it is the hands and the spirit of the glassmaker that bring out the authentic quality to the pieces.

"Dining becomes a completely different experience with Cive glassware because each piece is expertly made by master glassmakers who have been trained in the firm traditions and fine craftsmanship of their glassmaking ancestors," says Muebles Italiano President Noel Gonzales, the distributor of Cive in the Philippines.

Cive's varied design landscape expresses styles that move from the essential to the subtly classic to hints of the rustic, often drawing inspiration from the local color and rural ways of the Tuscan countryside.

Through intricate processes such
as gilding, or
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Cive is av
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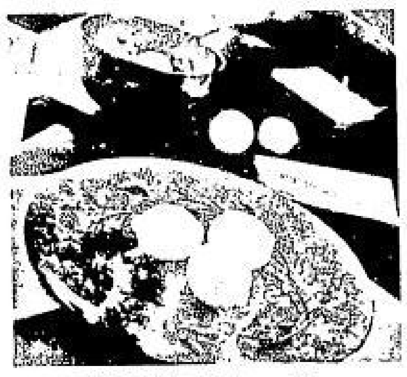
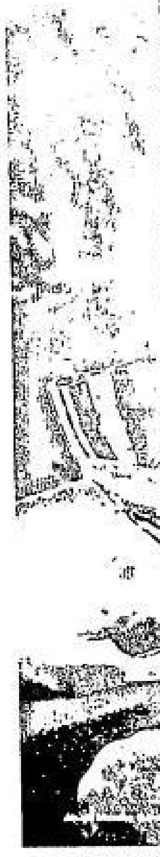


A SOPHISTICATED line with an antique feel, Arabesque draws inspiration from tales of the Middle East.

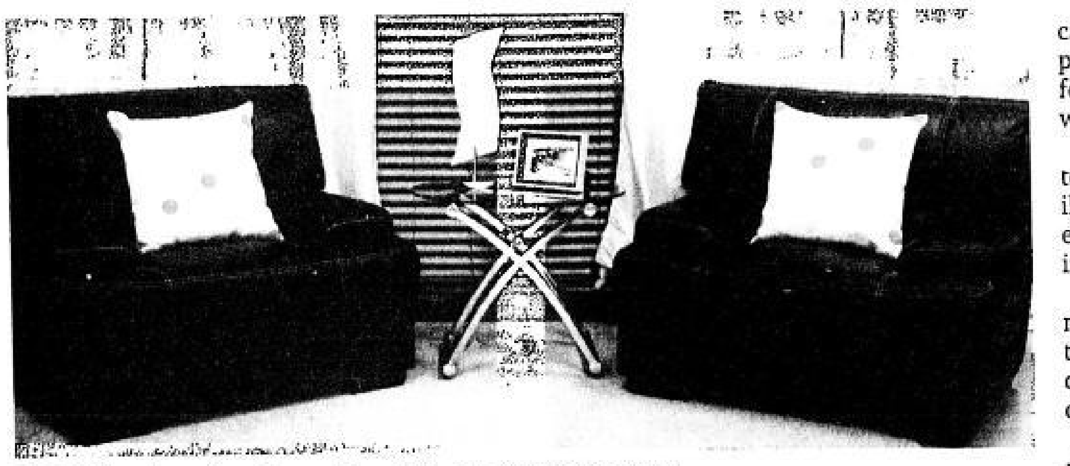


A GRACEFUL
with soft, sinu
in transparen

Deconstructing the leather sofa

OUR HOME, THE LIFESTYLE STORE THAT offers great designs at great prices, offers luxe leather sofas that are beautifully constructed for comfort and durability.

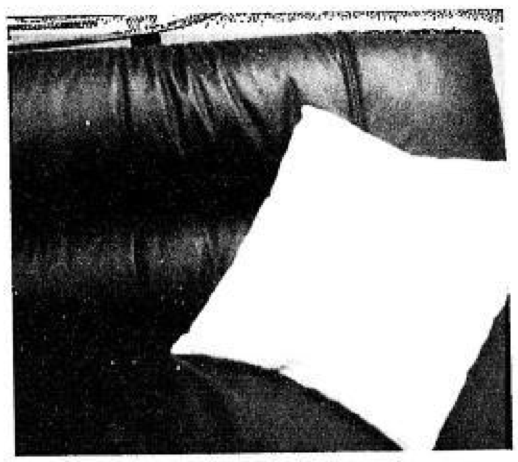
Almost sculpted in black, deep brown, and ivory shades, these sofas make stunning pieces in traditional or modern settings. You can sink back in plush sofas with padded arms and double-bolster back cushions; or create dramatic spaces with sleek sectional sofas that have extended chaise lounges, making every angle a dramatic one.



BLACK leather sofa enhanced by stitch detailing throughout

What makes these pieces so luxe?

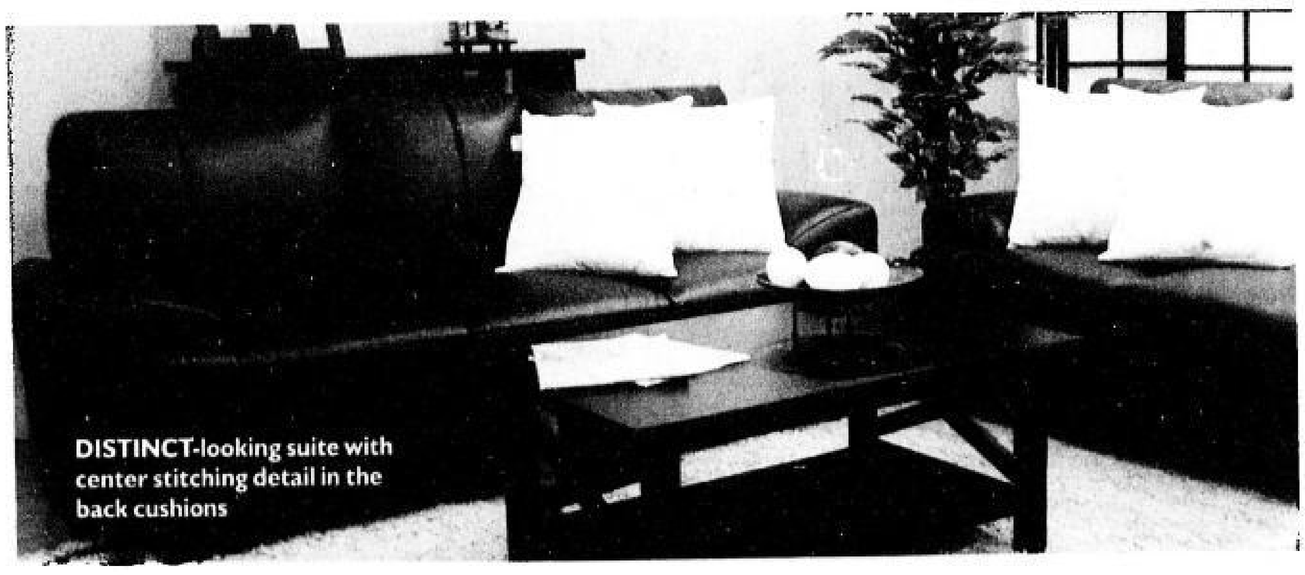
- Comfort, elasticity, and durability. Springs are 8-cm tall, made with patented steel, and a special barrel shape. This innovative high-technology system, which consists of a set of pocketed springs, will literally bring you to a new comfort zone.
- Like most natural materials, leather can breathe, which makes it adjust to temperature rapidly. It will not become uncomfortable either in summer or in colder weather.
- Leather is durable—there are no consistent fiber patterns that can make it tear or easily rip as other fabrics. It is fire resistant and emits no toxic fumes even when exposed to intense heat.
- Leather is designed to age well. It will not crack or peel, but instead stretch and retain its shape without sagging. Finishes and colors applied are permanent, and won't fade or peel.
- It is low-maintenance. It will endure the rigors of daily life at home with minor care. Just a damp cloth is enough for cleaning and maintenance.



DEEP brown leather sofa has luxurious arm pads and cushions that you can simply sink into

Our Home's leather sofa collection is available in its Metro Manila stores at SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, SM Southmall, V-Mall, the Mall of Asia, and The Block at SM City North-Edsa. It is also available at Our Home's provincial branches at the SM supermalls in Bacoor, Sta. Rosa, Clark, Pampanga, Lucena, Baguio, Marilao, Dasmariñas, and Batangas in Luzon; and Iloilo and Cagayan de Oro in the Vizmin area.

SECTIONAL leather sofa features relaxed slanted back cushions with extended chaise lounge



DISTINCT-looking suite with center stitching detail in the back cushions

Ma
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THIS YEAR'S MANILA FA
national, the second long
trade show for home
houseware, holiday décor
ion accessories in the Asi
gion, will be held on Ap
five different venues:
Trade Center, East Pavili
pine Trade Training Cent
Forum and Reception
Philippine International
Center (PICC).

The event will tap sev
country's top designers f
chandise Development C
Program (MDCP): Tony
Tes Pasola, Reimon Guti
win Avilles, Chito Prieto.
Oreña, with overall cre
tion by Milo Naval. Nav
the founding members of
8, a consortium of top Fil
ture designers.

MDCP, introduced in 1
pave the way for local a
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FAME International estab
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Launched in 1983, M
International is the only
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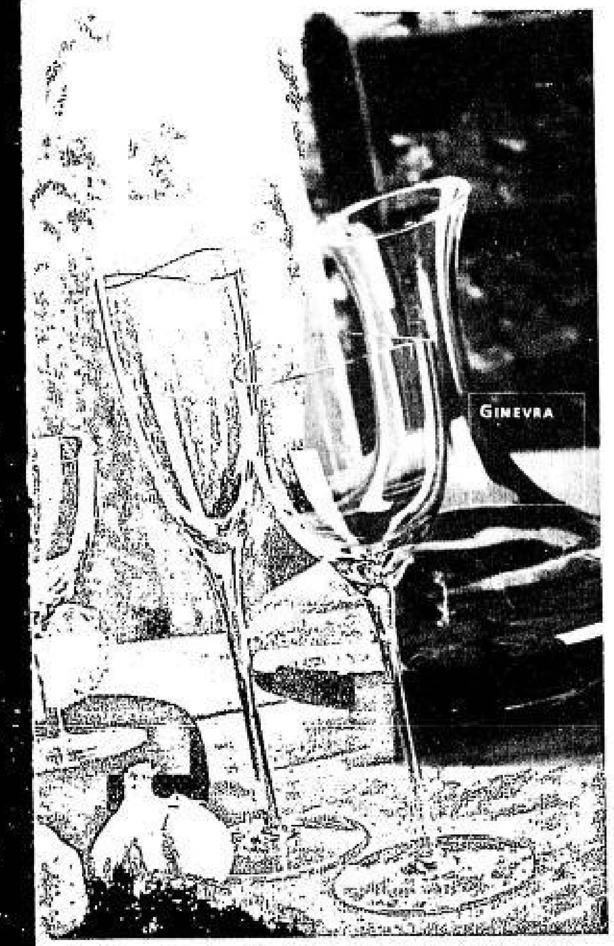
TICENTO evokes classical shapes and decorations, :ained through a refined use of the silver leaf.

SS

the process of deco- firing on gold, silver af, Cive produces ssware that is in- ful and unique.

ilable in the Philip- its distributor Mue- vith its flagship store rporate Center G/F rvice Road, SLEX Al- Iuntinlupa City its branches at Glori- 948), Alabang Town 146), MC Home The 1), SM Megamall SM North Edsa nd its two house 1 Ayala Heights in nd Ayala Alabang.

OLIMPO glass vase



collection of matching wine glasses and decanter ous lines, Ginevra is crafted by master glassmakers mouth-blown glass.

nila FAME
ril 18-21

ME INTER- st running rnishings, and fash- Pacific re- il 18-21 in he World on, Philip- r, and the all of the Convention

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97, helped nd foreign with the edium en- p globally is unique d Manila sh a brand utstanding tion.

nila FAME ade fair in d by the nationales rld's lead- zers, fair- r interna- he exhibi- tions industry.

Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), the export promotions agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the fair is held twice a year (April and October), and each edition brings new surprises with its Spring and Fall collections.

For many years now, Manila FAME International has always provided a winning edge—exceptional creativity, fine craftsmanship, well-selected merchandise not found anywhere, and personalized customer service, making it on top of the must-see shows in the region's trade fair circuit.

George Beylerian, president and founder of Materials ConnexXion in New York, says that "coming to the Philippines is like an instant magnetic affair. The country has an enormous talent bank, an incredible wealth of materials, and good commercial common sense."

Today, Philippine products can be found in well-appointed showrooms and upscale shops worldwide, as buyers from top companies such as William Sonoma, Donna Karan, Calvin Klein, Armani Casa, Neiman Marcus, Barneys, Pottery Barn, Harrods, Target, Marks and Spencer, and Banana Republic, among others, troop to Manila every April and October.

Manila FAME is open to the public on the last day only, with P150 entrance fee. Visit www.manilafame.com. E-mail hardgoods@citem.com.ph or softgoods@citem.com.ph.

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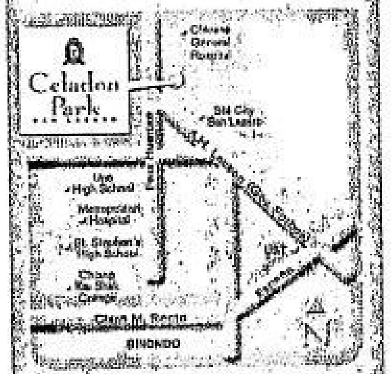

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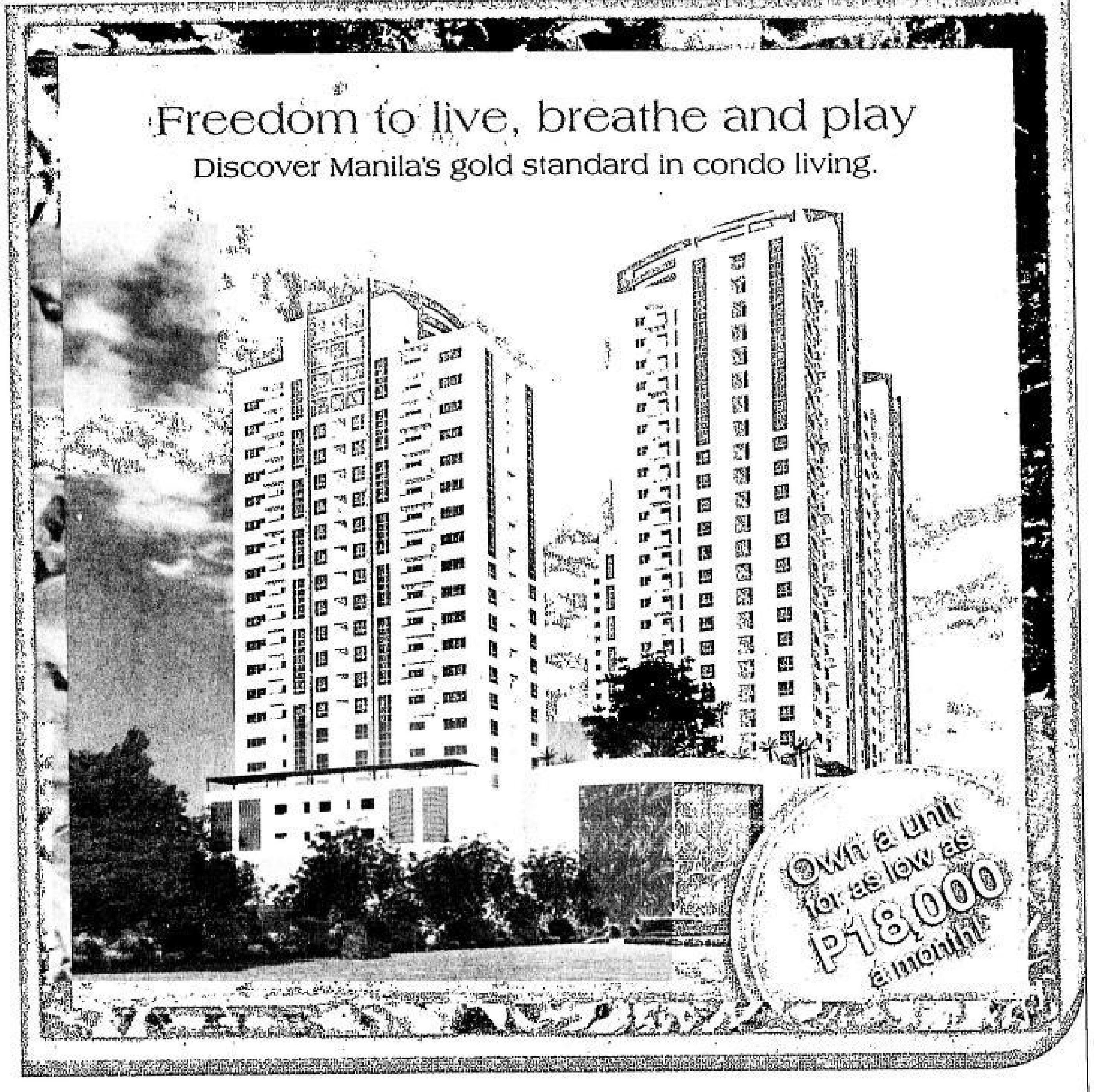
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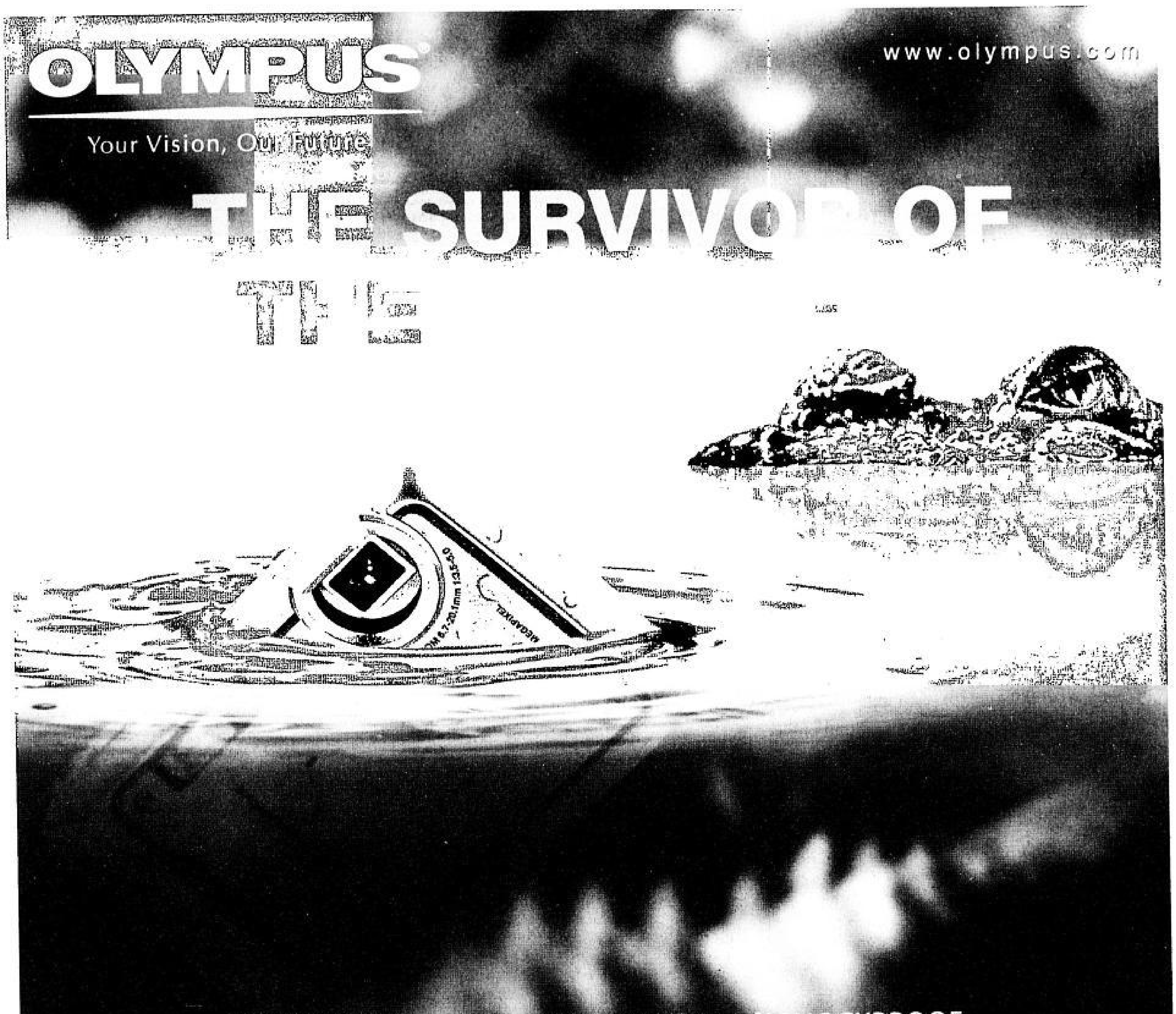

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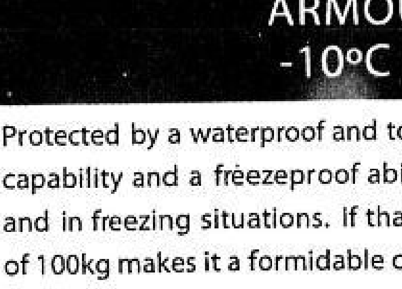

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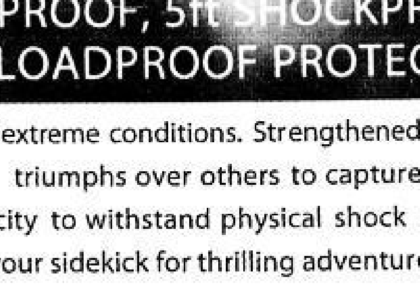

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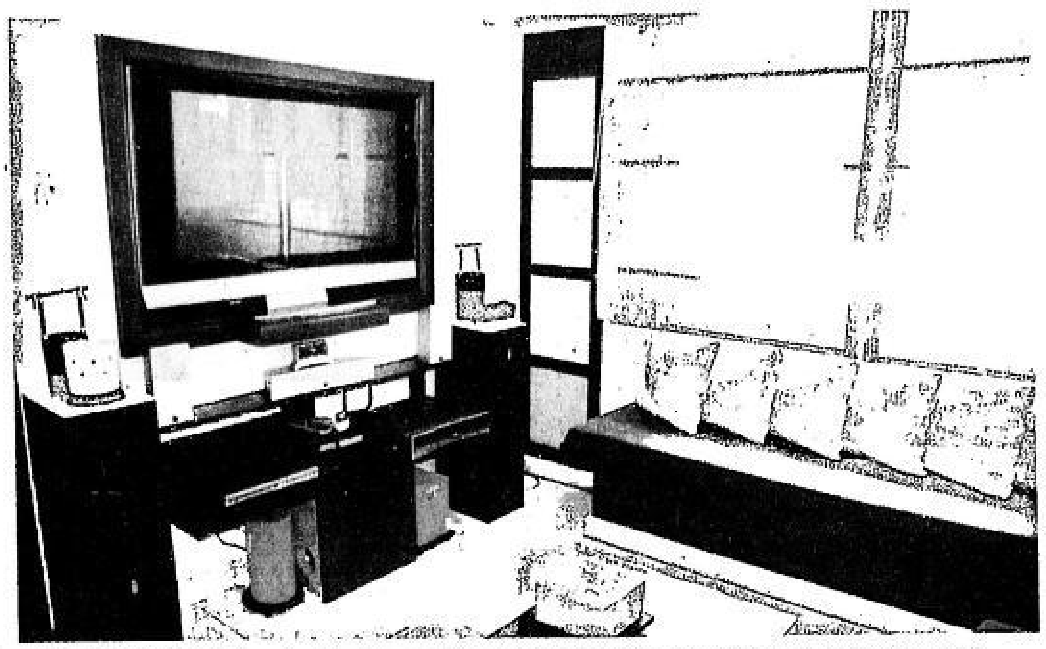
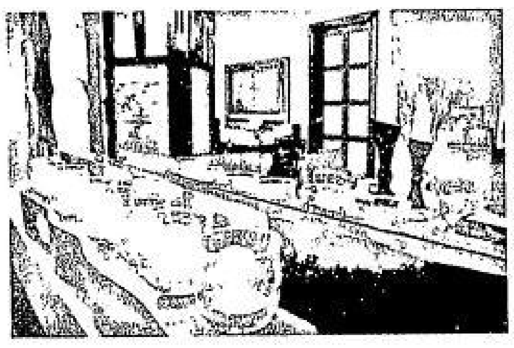


A FLAT-SCREEN TV and entertainment system in the living room complement the unit's pared-down sensibilities.

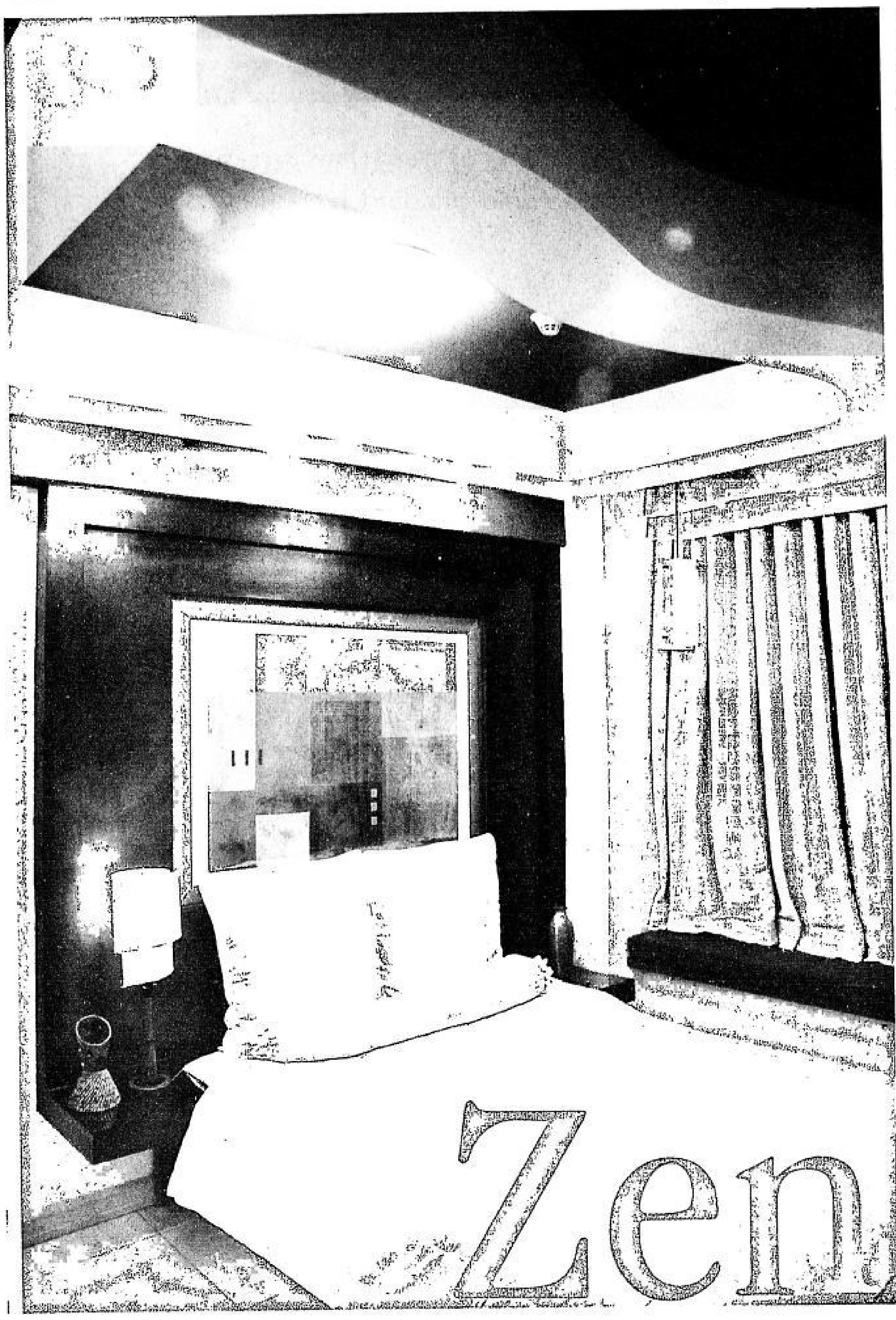
Quezon City Councilor Wency Lagumbay's Eastwood abode is a showcase of the 'warm, dynamic' hue that is his favorite

AN ACCENT chair made of rattan and a wooden divider fashioned primarily from bamboo add warmth and texture to the place.



MULTIPLE candles get double exposure, thanks to a giant mirror by the dining area.

Zen in orange



THE REWORKED ceiling in the bedroom combines floating as well as cove varieties.

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

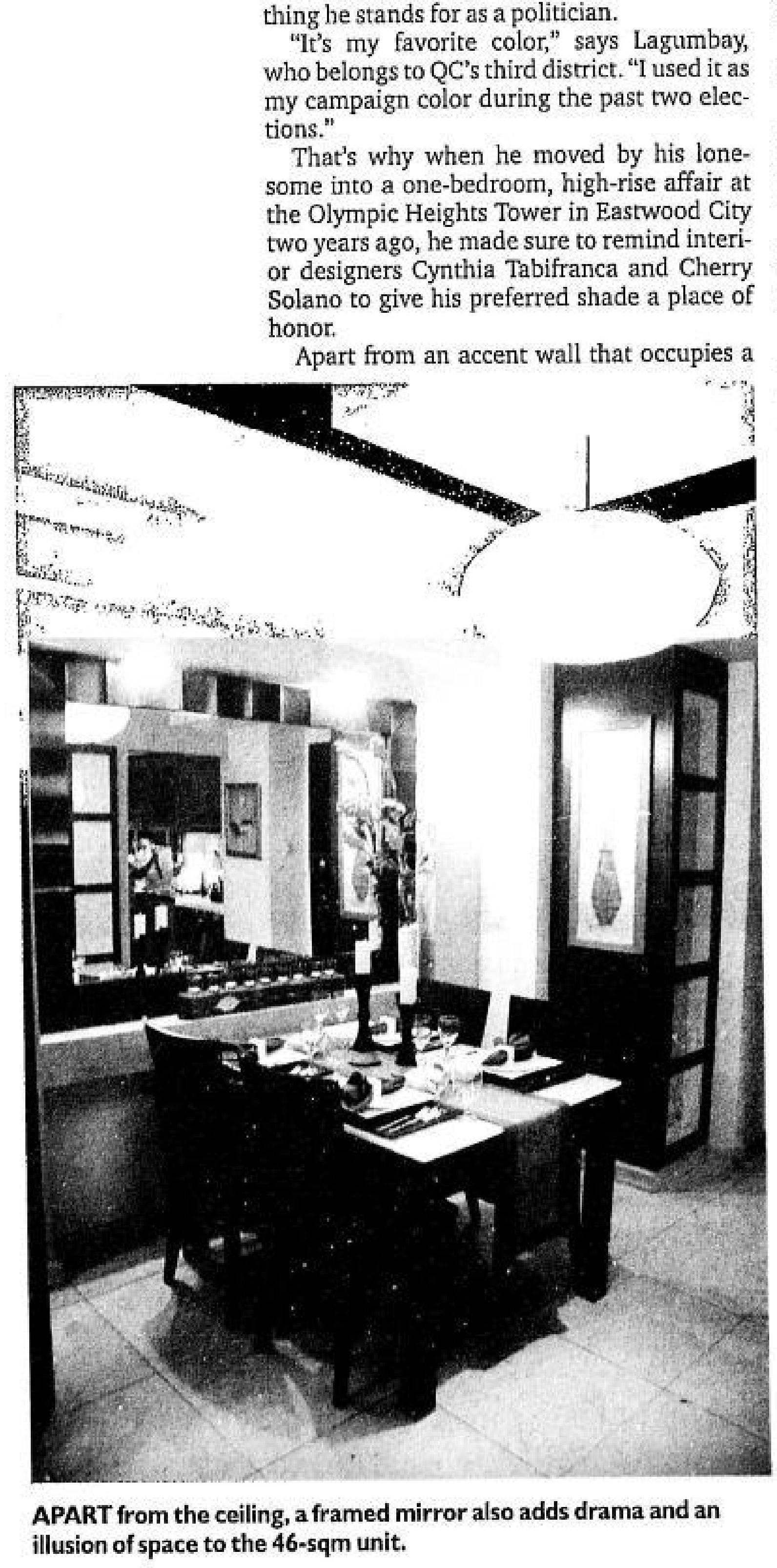
THE COLOR ORANGE IS probably the last thing you'd associate with a Zen-inspired home. Such a strong shade is more likely in tune with either an ornate Asian dwelling or a modern one with touches of retro.

But Quezon City Councilor Wency Lagumbay likens orange to a visual tonic. The "warm, dynamic" color also symbolizes everything he stands for as a politician.

"It's my favorite color," says Lagumbay, who belongs to QC's third district. "I used it as my campaign color during the past two elections."

That's why when he moved by his lonesome into a one-bedroom, high-rise affair at the Olympic Heights Tower in Eastwood City two years ago, he made sure to remind interior designers Cynthia Tabifranca and Cherry Solano to give his preferred shade a place of honor.

Apart from an accent wall that occupies a prominent space between the living and dining areas, the unit's series of floating ceilings is also painted in orange, albeit in a much lighter shade. The same hue extends to a number of vases and accent pieces, including a locally made rattan chair with an orange seat.



APART from the ceiling, a framed mirror also adds drama and an illusion of space to the 46-sqm unit.

To Lagumbay's delight, instead of going for a bright hue that mirrors the color of the fruit, the design duo went for a dusty version of orange to conform to the unit owner's idea of a Filipino-style Zen home.

"It's perfect," Lagumbay says of the modified hue. "It complements the accent pieces and makes for an ideal contrast to all the dark wood."

Far cry

Lagumbay, who followed in his dad's footsteps, had yet to enter politics when he considered investing in a unit back when the condominium was being pre-sold.

This growing community in Libis, which also happens to be part of QC's third district, is being developed and managed by Megaworld Corp.

Eastwood, he recalls, was a far cry then from what it has become today, a thriving and self-sufficient mini-city that hosts a wide variety of restaurants, shops, cinemas and even a Catholic church.

It's also the home of some of the country's biggest corporations and call centers.

Despite so many unknowns, Lagumbay went ahead and paid the down payment. He has had no reason to regret his decision.

Aside from a thriving community on the ground, his first home away from home is a mere 10 minutes away from Quezon City Hall on a good day.

"My decision was based purely on gut feel," he says. "Even then I already saw Eastwood's potential to grow into one of the country's most preferred business and residential communities. I've been proven right."

There are more similarities than differences between how his office and home look, he says. But while he opts to surround himself with lightly stained pieces during official hours, Lagumbay goes for dark, slightly rustic ones when he gets home after 5 p.m.

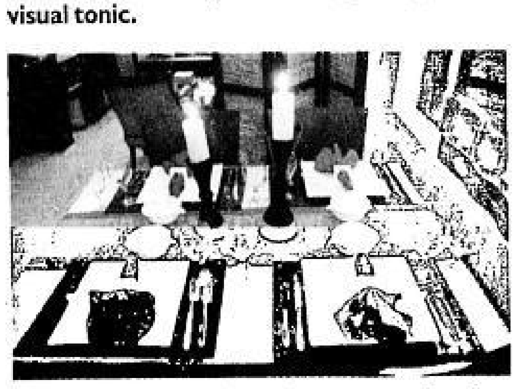
The same design aesthetic extends to a number of accent pieces, which includes a bamboo divider, side table-cum-floor lamp and several artificial blooms (it would have been too costly and time-consuming, he says, to go for real ones). All of them, he declares proudly, are made in the Philippines.

Lagumbay employed the oldest trick in the book to give his dining area an added illusion of space. But instead of going for a plain wall-mounted mirror, he had it framed like an oversized painting.

To keep himself from feeling too "boxed in" in the kitchen, he also had a substantial part of its walls covered with a series of smaller, unframed mirrors.

Lagumbay has yet to learn how to cook (a "9-5" maid from his parents' place does the cleaning and cooking for him), but he wisely invested in a series of custom-built shelves and kitchen organizers with built-in mini wheels. Cooking is the least of his problems right now since he seldom hosts big meals.

THE COLOR orange acts as Lagumbay's visual tonic.



LAGUMBAY gives the color orange a break, and opts for scarlet table napkins to match the table runner.

IN KEEPING with the owner's rule to buy only items he likes (whether or not they're expensive), accent pieces, from candles and vases to artificial blooms, are affordable, attractive and easy to maintain.

"I receive people either at my office in city hall or at my parents' place," he says. "This unit is where I live, chill out and entertain close friends."

Focal points

The unit's focal points, of course, include the accent wall and a series of floating ceilings. The latter host a string of pin and cove lights that are echoed, albeit in a smaller scale, in the bedroom.

In lieu of fluorescent lights, Lagumbay opted for inexpensive and durable rope lights to illuminate concealed crevices in the cove ceiling.

The same lighting treatment illuminates the base of his "floating" bed, which is elevated by a partly hidden wooden platform that doubles as a cabinet.

Since one of the challenges of condo living is the lack of space, Lagumbay knew early on that he had to edit out nonessentials as well as think of ways to properly organize his stuff, particularly his considerable CD and DVD collections.

His designers were able to work around such a limitation by turning seemingly inconsequential corners into small but handsome built-in cabinets made of stained wood, clear glass and handmade paper. They employed the same treatment to hide an unsightly fuse box beside the accent wall.

What looks like a china cabinet near the unit's main door is actually the councilor's shoe compartment. Meanwhile, his CDs and DVD are kept in similar cabinets by the living room window and accent wall.

Lagumbay made sure he has additional compartments under a built-in concrete ledge by the living room window to store future acquisitions.

His bedroom also features a similar ledge, which actually doubles as a bench, by a much bigger picture window. He bought a flat-screen TV for the living room, but opted for an iPod dock hooked up to a series of speakers to listen to his favorite tunes in the bedroom.

"After a long day at the office," he says, "it's very relaxing to come home to a cool, dimly lit place I can call my own."

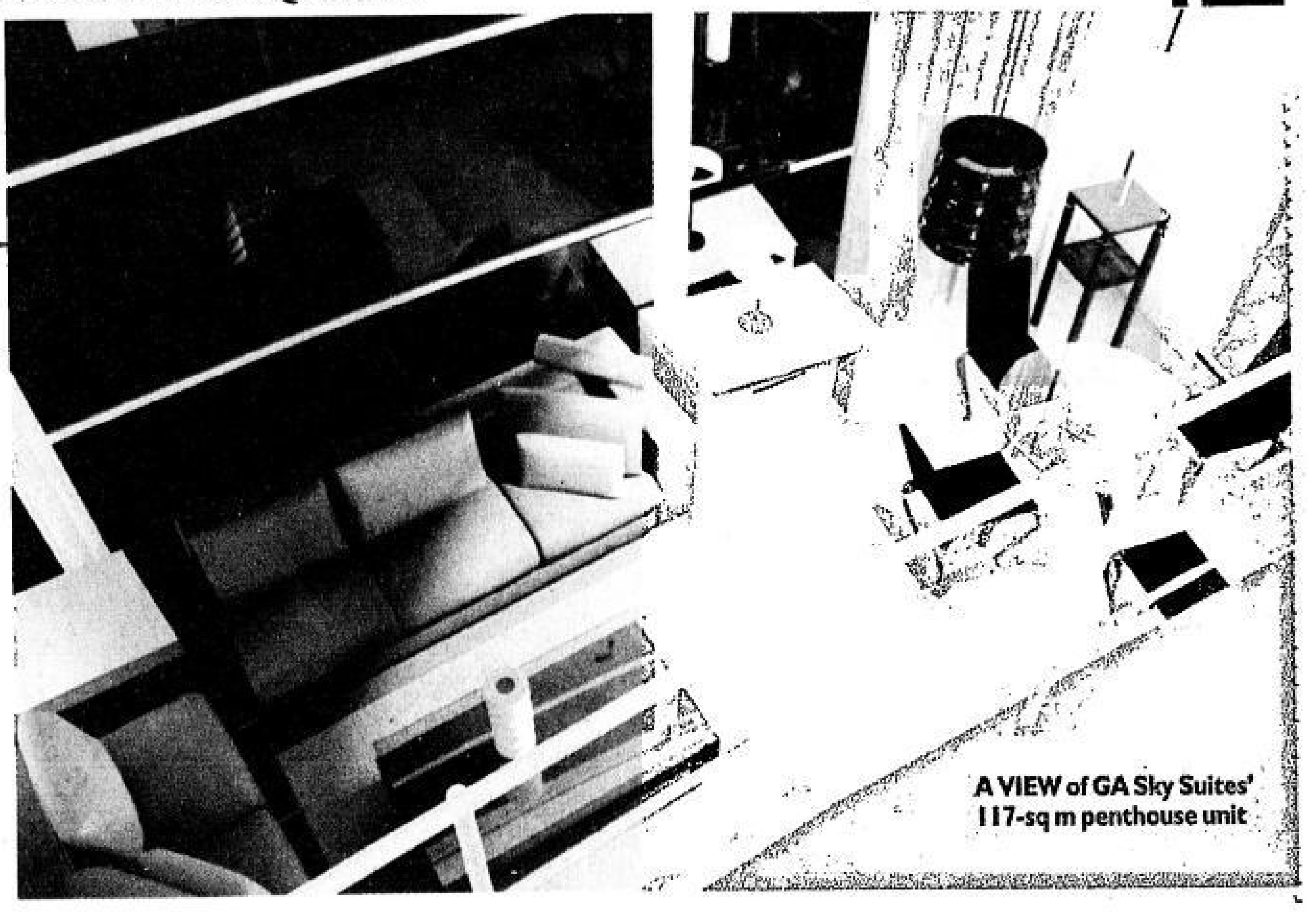
With a glass of his favorite drink in hand, Lagumbay kicks off his shoes and turns off all the lights except the ones that emanate from the cove ceiling. Soon enough, he experiences a feeling of great serenity as he sits down to reflect on the day's events.

The distant glow coming from countless city lights below as seen from both the living room and bedroom windows complements the feel-good mood. Such is this young man's idea of Zen living.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Where sky's the limit

The 38-story residential GA Sky Suites will soon be the tallest building on Edsa—a premium lifestyle address



A VIEW of GA Sky Suites' 117-sq m penthouse unit

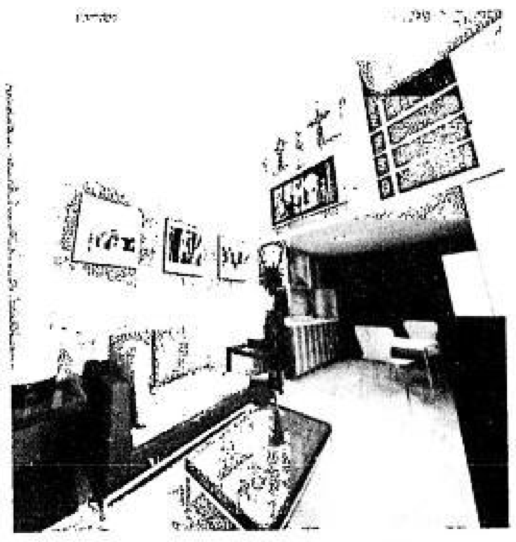
AT THE CENTER OF bustling Quezon City rises GA Sky Suites, a development that will become the tallest structure on the country's most famous avenue, Edsa.

Quezon City, the "Hollywood of the Philippines" where prominent studios and big networks reside and where the latest developments are located, is an area ready for a 5-star residential condominium. With call centers branching out to QC, major international firms constructing head offices here, and high-end malls entering the city, QC is expected to be the next CBD of Metro Manila.

At GA Sky Suites, VIP treatment fit for the stars awaits clients.

GA Sky Suites' design concept has two juxtaposed sculptural forms—one semicircular wing containing residential units and the other curvilinear wing containing office spaces. These combine to form a single, strikingly modern edifice.

The curves of Globe Asiatique's Sky Suites architecture are meant to capture panoramic views. There are gardens at various levels of the building. At night, edifice's glass fins glimmer as the roof angles toward the sky. The podium parking also serves as a man-made plateau surrounded by lush greenery. The lowest apartment and office spaces are placed on an elevation to separate it from street activities and create a secluded enclave.



THE CHIC style of GA Sky Suites' 50-sq m regular unit

Other features include al fresco dining, sky gardens, a swimming pool and a playground.

The "loft concept" is shared by both structures, adding volume to its spaces. No two units are alike, from their views to their location.

GA Sky Suites will offer premium services like a concierge who will help residents reserve movie tickets and restaurant slots, arrange for food delivery and valet parking, etc. A doorman will welcome residents and guests at the lobby.

These features and the extraordinary architecture of Globe Asiatique promise an exceptional place to rest, dine in and stay. With a GA Sky Suites unit, Globe Asiatique is selling not merely a place to live in, but the kind of luxurious lifestyle many have always wanted.

Soon to be the tallest building on Edsa, GA Sky Suites will be a 38-story residential condominium with a total land area of 2,800 sq m. Regular units will be from the second floor to the 37th floor, while penthouse units will occupy the 38th floor.

Two floors on the podium of the building will be reserved for commercial spaces, plus spacious parking spaces.

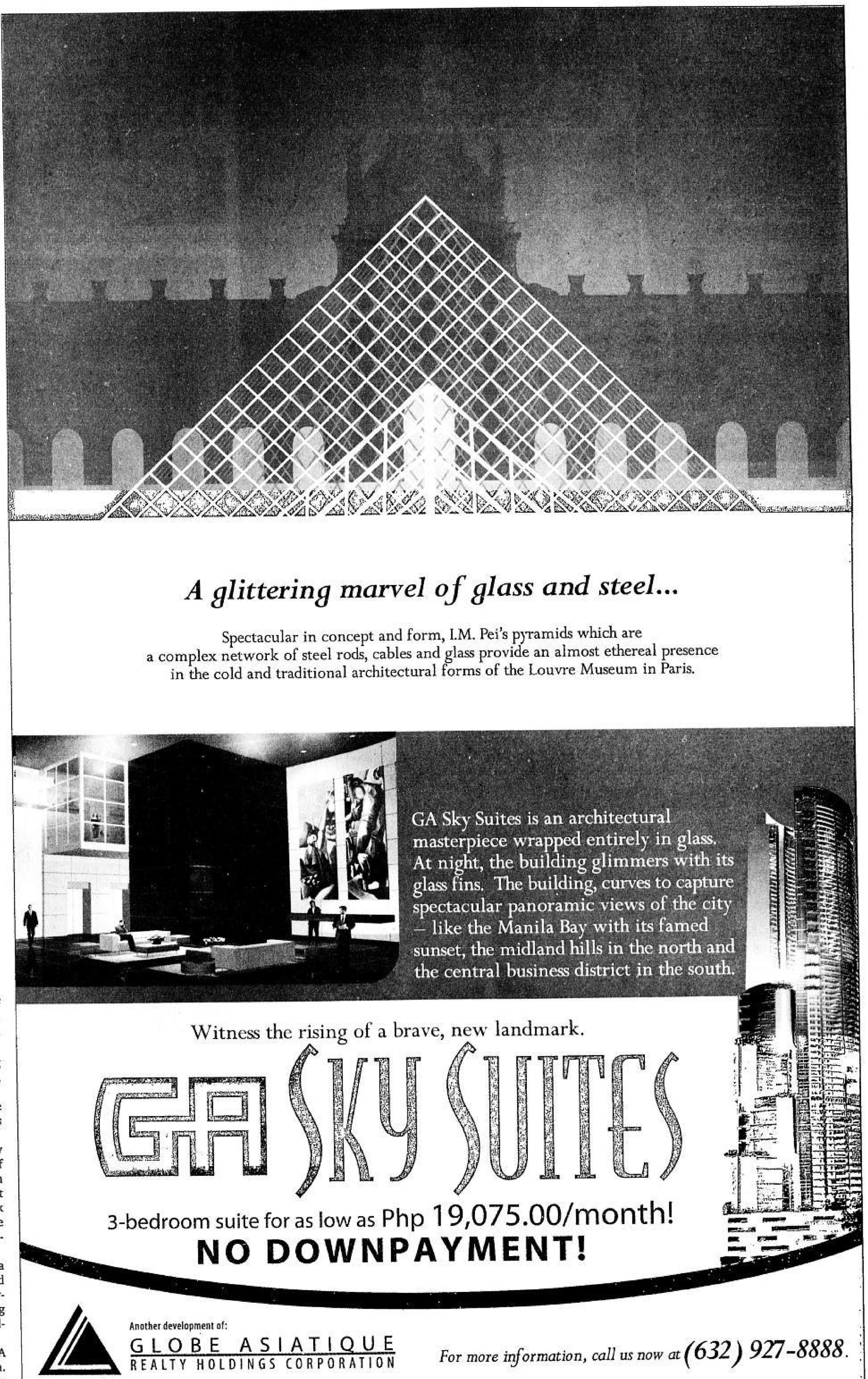
There will be 1,007 units in the entire residential building—993 regular units and 14 penthouse units.

Globe Asiatique's Sky Suites will allow residents to choose from a wide array of home styles and unit features. The Podium and Garden lofts are one-sided units that offer different looks. For those who seek more space, the Sky loft and the Penthouse are available in 50-, 54-, 79-, 91-, and 117-sq m sizes.

Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp., a real-estate company that's market-oriented and service-focused, has gained considerable experience and competence in serving different markets, from socialized to middle-class levels.

Its highly praised projects include the GA Tower, St. Monique Valais and Casa Ibiza. All of these developments are a showcase of how Globe Asiatique continues to uplift the quality and standard of living in the city.

WHERE/ I2



A glittering marvel of glass and steel...

Spectacular in concept and form, I.M. Pei's pyramids which are a complex network of steel rods, cables and glass provide an almost ethereal presence in the cold and traditional architectural forms of the Louvre Museum in Paris.

GA Sky Suites is an architectural masterpiece wrapped entirely in glass. At night, the building glimmers with its glass fins. The building, curves to capture spectacular panoramic views of the city – like the Manila Bay with its famed sunset, the midland hills in the north and the central business district in the south.

Witness the rising of a brave, new landmark.

GA SKY SUITES

3-bedroom suite for as low as Php 19,075.00/month!

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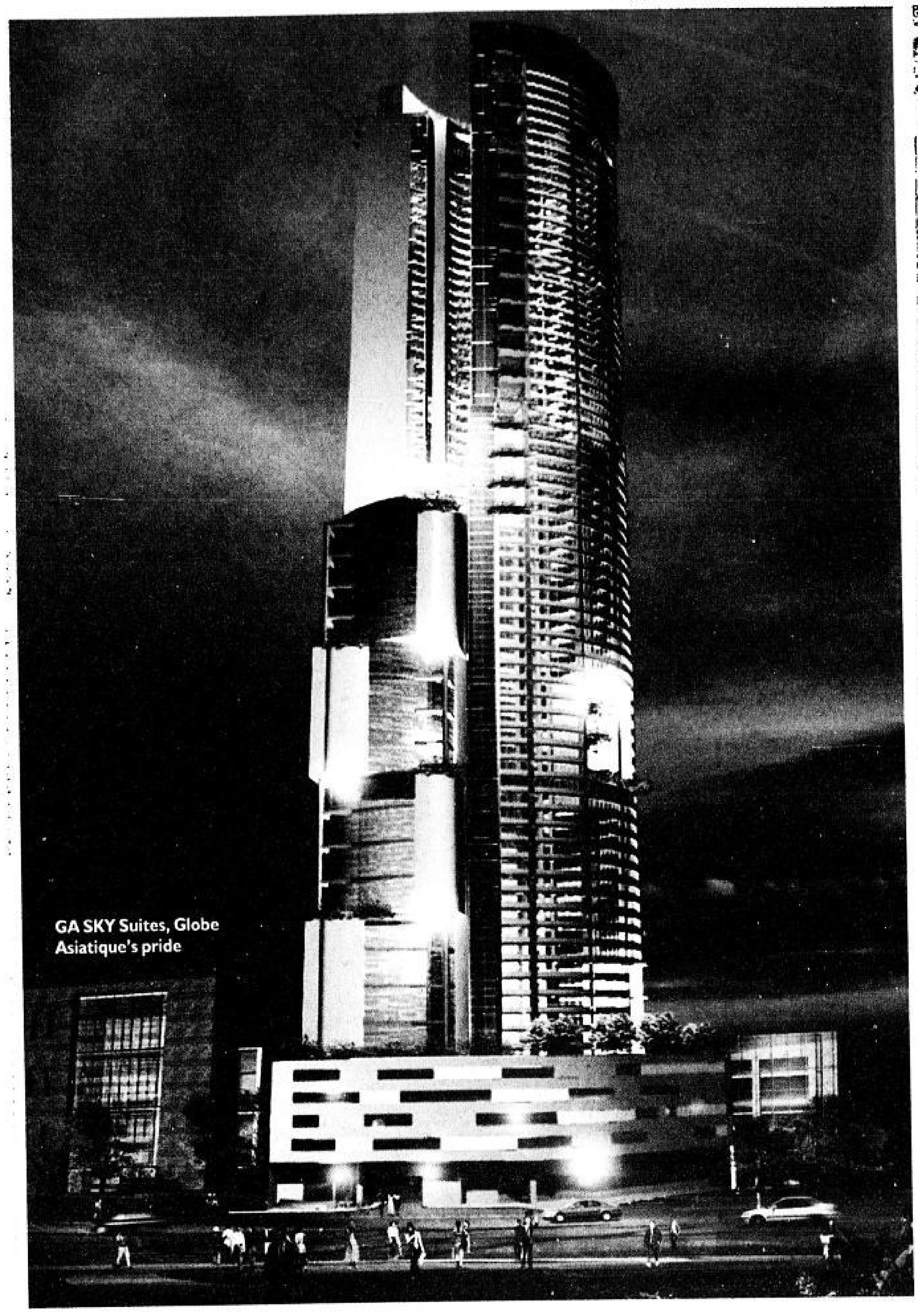
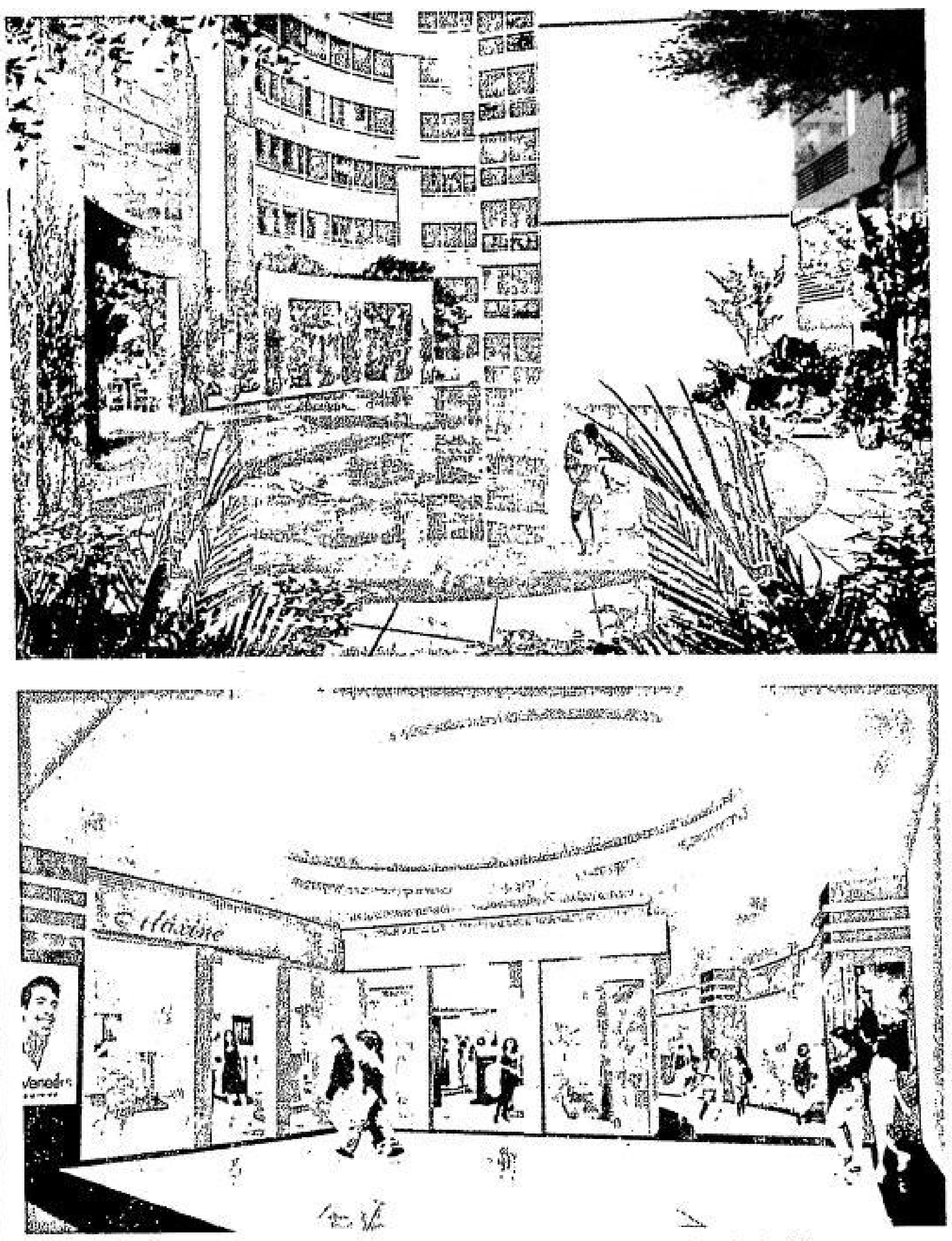
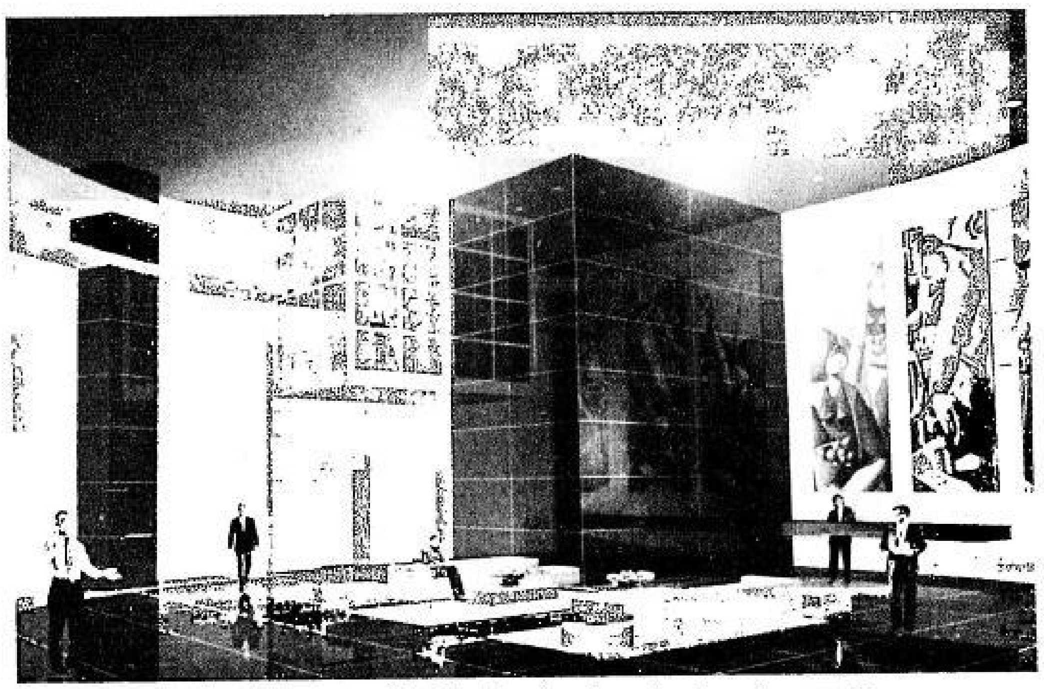


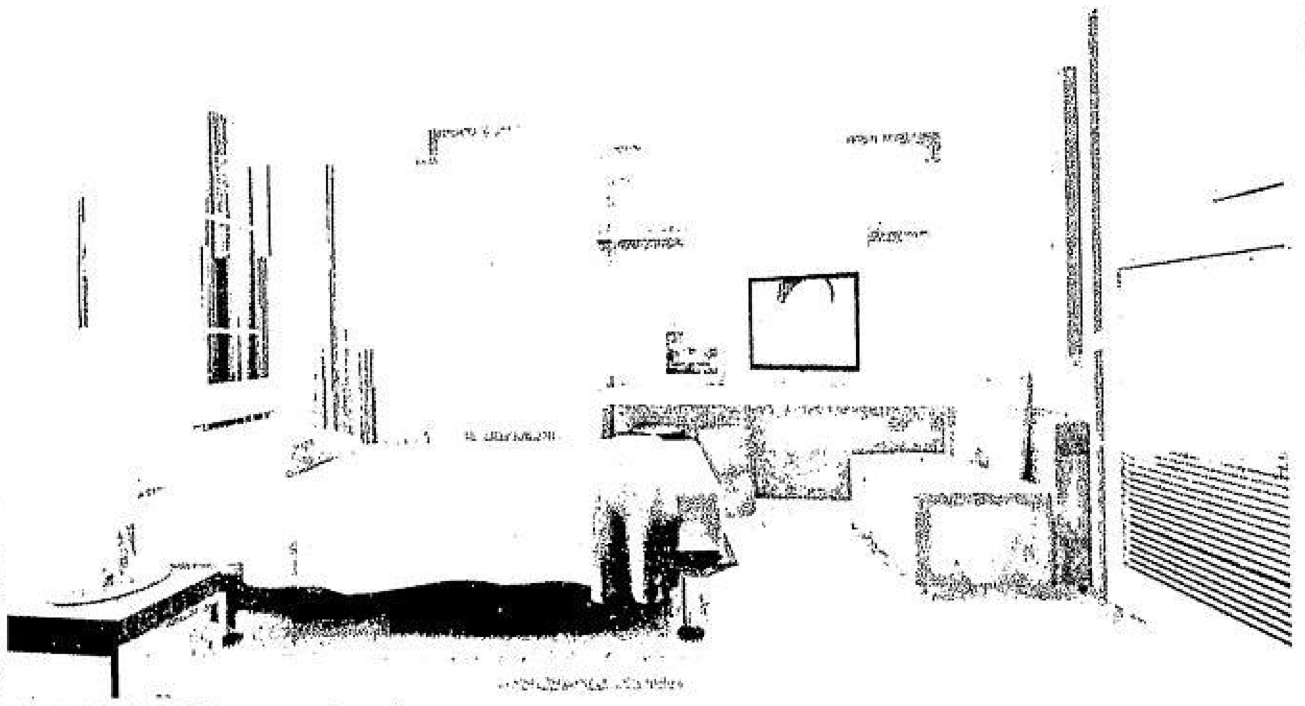
GA SKY Suites, Globe Asiatique's pride



PLUSH amenities will include a pool area and a shopping center within the building.



HIGH-CEILING lobby is museum-like in look—airy, elegant and contemporary.



BEDROOM of a 50-sq m regular unit

Where sky's . . .

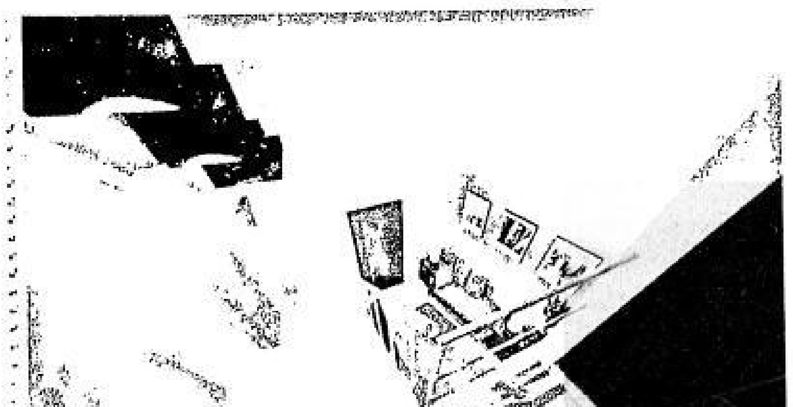
From page 11

Globe Asiatique prioritizes clients through high-quality service and effective and efficient after-sales service. Significant value is also added to the projects through in-depth planning and strategic land uses to further the development of a full-grown community that clients can be proud of.

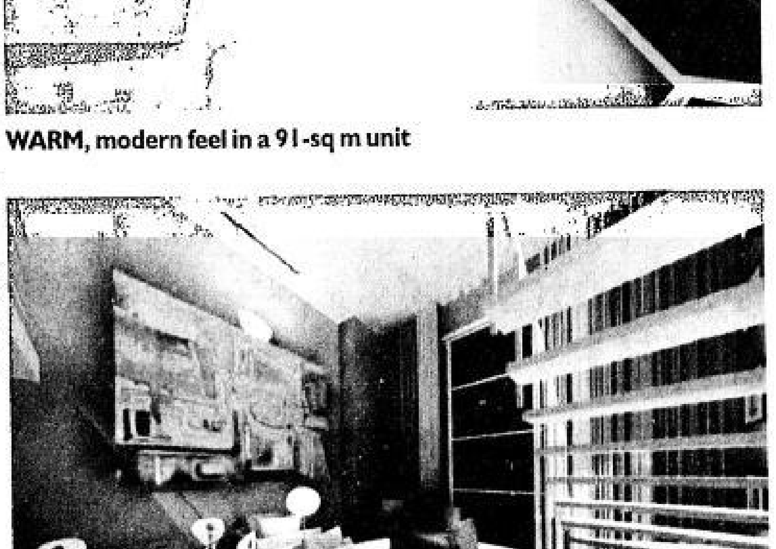
Accordingly, the GA Sky Suites will deliver heightened elegance and convenience, fulfilling its commitment to those who are truly seeking a place to call home.

Above everything else, what separates GA Sky Suites from other developments is its cost-friendly price. Each loft is a value-for-money proposition, created to guarantee a comfortable lifestyle and a homey environment.

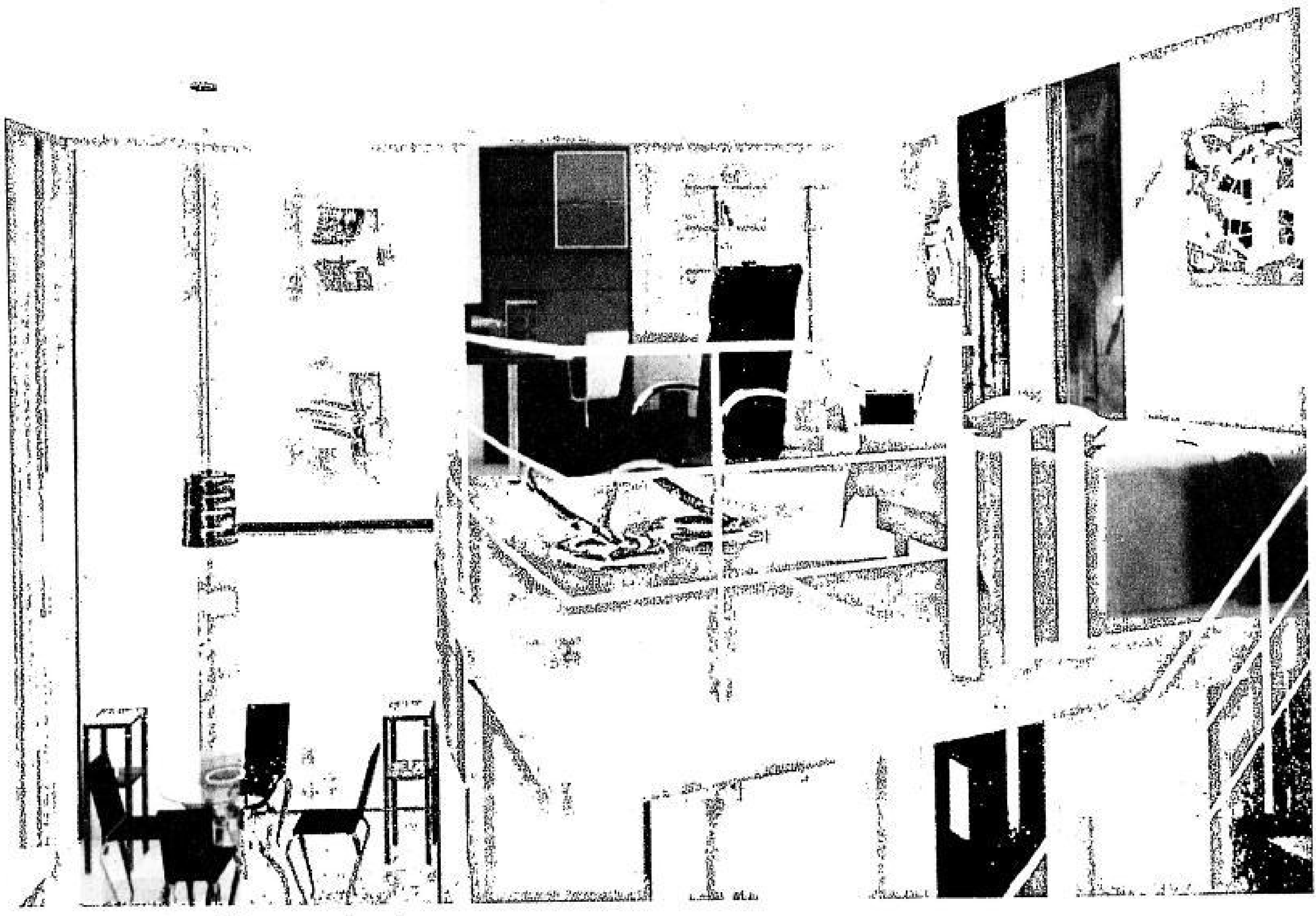
Be one of the first to acquire a high-quality lifestyle today through GA Sky Suites. And now is the best time to avail of GA Sky Suites' special offers. Call (632) 9278888 or visit www.galifestyle.com or www.globeasiatique.com.



WARM, modern feel in a 91-sq m unit



LOFT style is a trademark of the GA Sky Suites design—a spacious approach to maximizing the 117-sq m penthouse unit.



PERSPECTIVE view of 43-sq m regular unit

THE SECRET OF THEIR SUCCESS

A MARKET ORIENTATION AND FOCUS on service—these are two hallmarks that have made Globe Asiatique Realty Holding Corporation the trusted and patronized developer it is today.

With the experience and competence acquired through the years, the company has evolved 'into serving different markets from the upper- to middle-class levels. Globe Asiatique has also continually designed plans and projects leading to progressive and successful developments.

The company was founded by the maverick Delfin Lee in 1994, who was determined to create a leader in real estate development. For its first project, the company was daring enough to take on the challenge of developing the Sta. Barbara Villas I, a residential project in Rizal.

Believing that success is "one percent luck and 99 percent hard work," Lee left nothing to chance. The fledgling firm's initial venture was so well-planned and tested that it became a showcase of the Housing and Land Regulatory Board and other developers.

"There are always lessons to be learned. Lessons that will teach you why something worked, how it can be improved and how to apply it in future undertakings," says Lee.

The most significant of these is credibility. "It takes years of hard work to establish credibility but it can be lost overnight," he states, "so, we don't over-promise to our clients. We over-deliver, instead. One can never give enough value to credibility."

The Globe Asiatique founder also considers innovation as another key to continued success. The company cannot afford to rest on its laurels in a fast-growing and competitive industry. Lee continues to push the envelope and do things outside the box.

"Innovation is key," he says, "as becoming stagnant is a very real risk. It's hard to sell your clients on the same thing over and over."

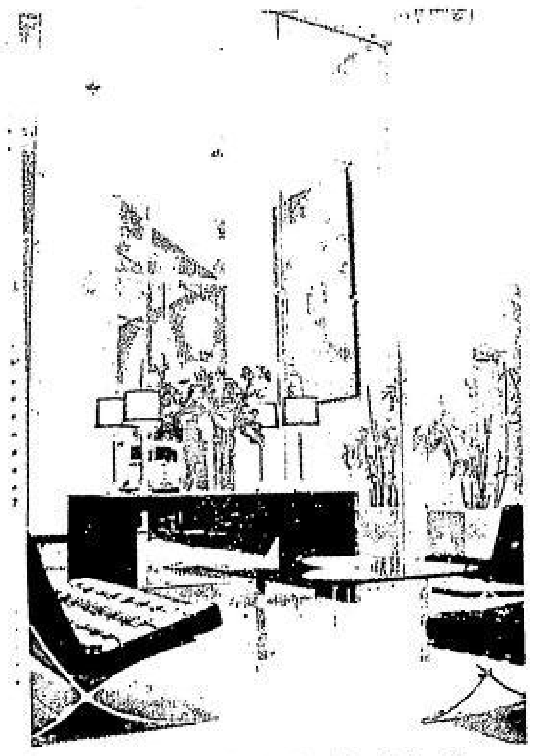
As the moving spirit of his company, Lee makes it a point to set a good example. He says he "instills in our employees that the buyer is king. The houses we build are not things to be bought on impulse. In most cases, they're lifetime dreams and investments so the buyer must always get full value."

Lee's daughter Divine Lee has also taken an aggressive role in the company and added dynamism to the success formula. She is instru-

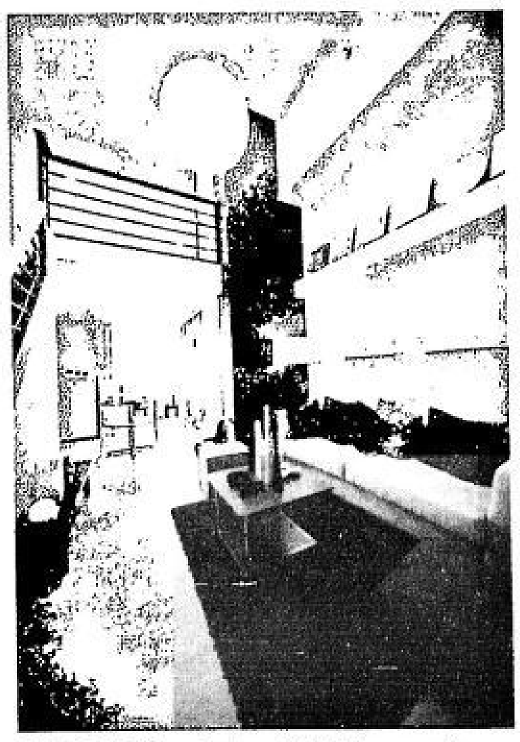
GLOBE/14

THE man behind Globe Asiatique, visionary chairman Delfin Lee

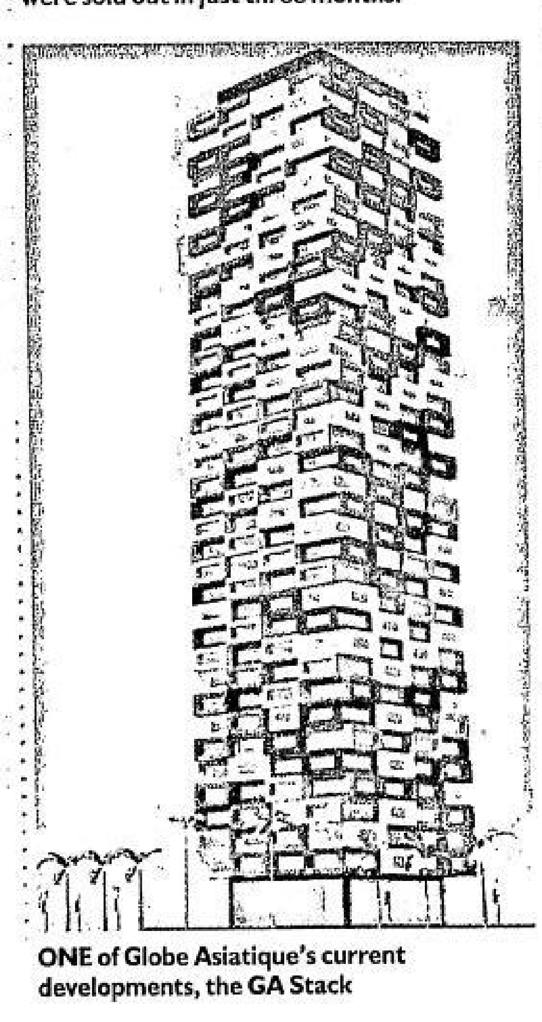
REAL-ESTATE maven Divine Lee takes after her father with her marketing savvy and innate feel for knowing what the market wants.



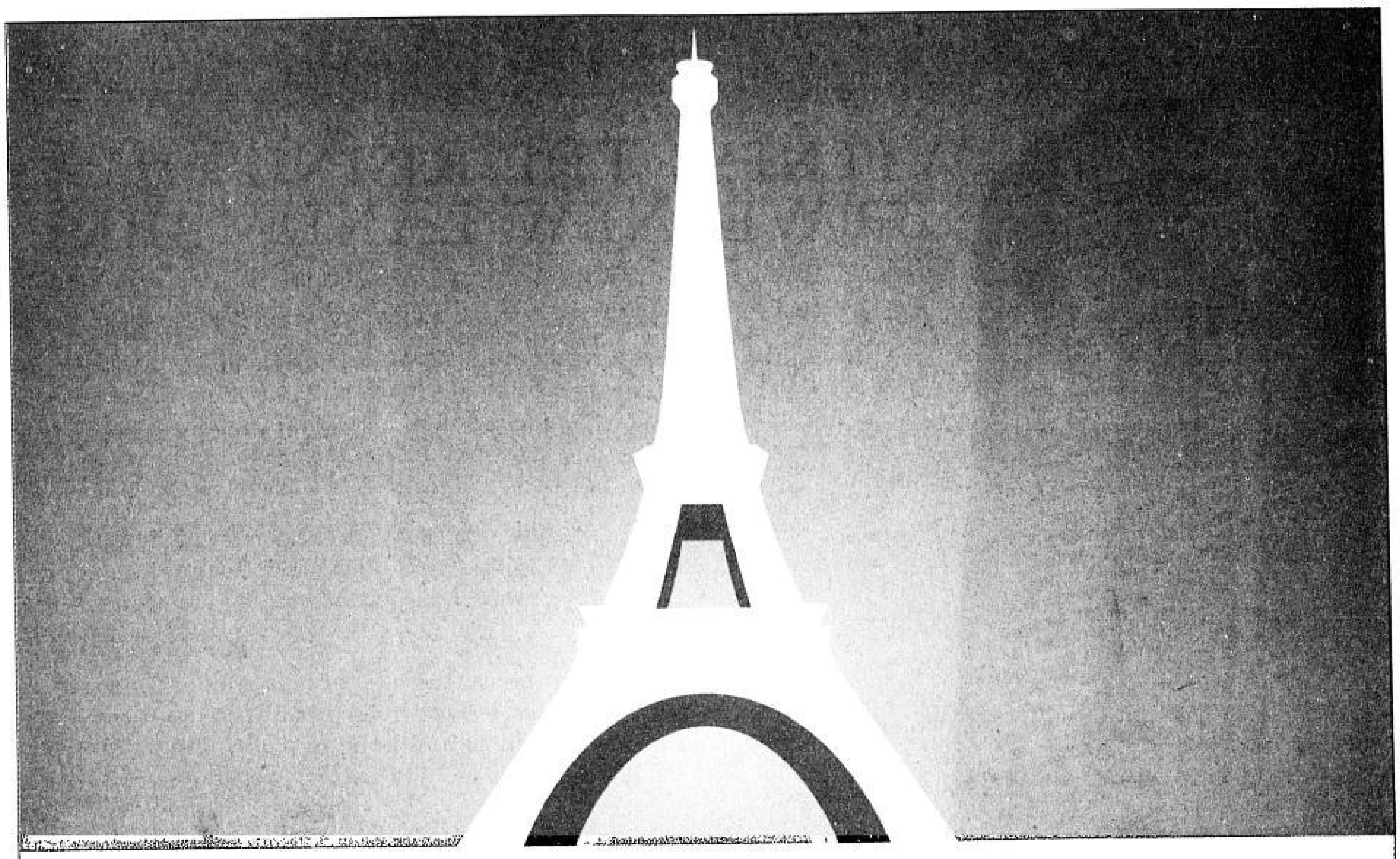
THE GA Tower lobby is sleekly minimalist.



A RECORD is set when all GA Tower units were sold out in just three months.

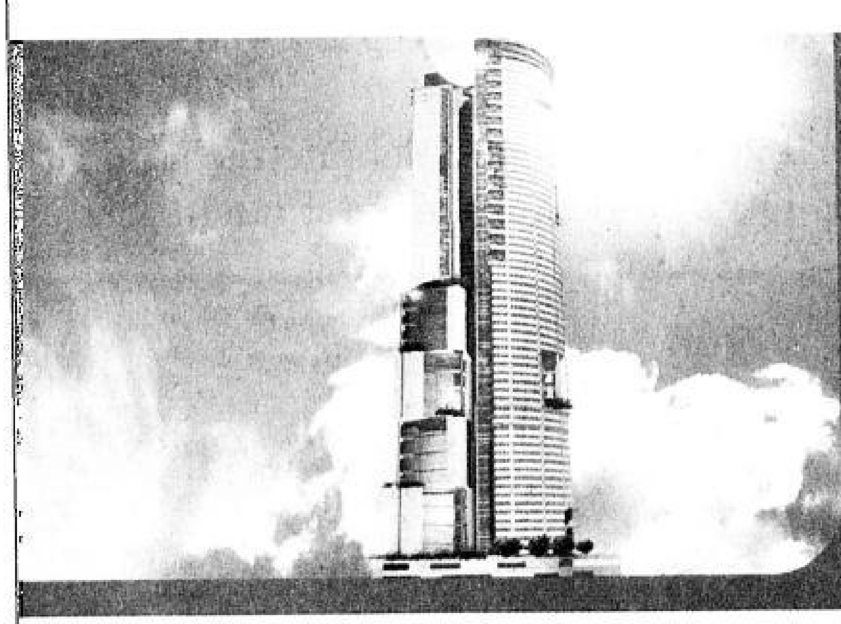


ONE of Globe Asiatique's current developments, the GA Stack

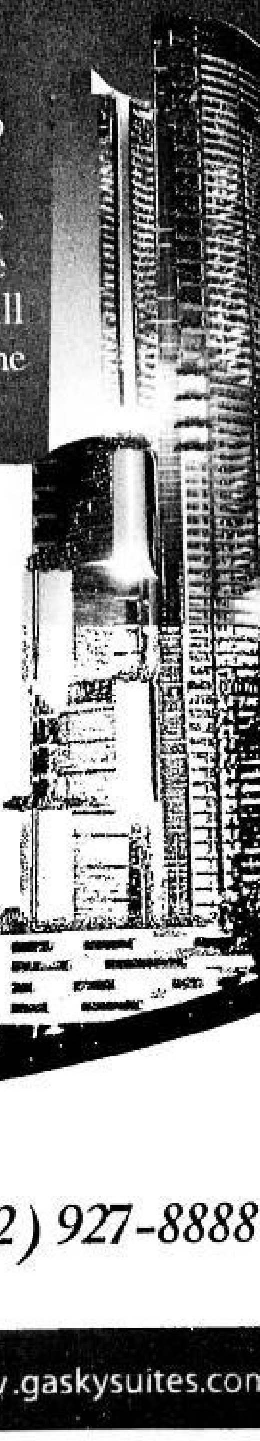


A towering icon that defines a city…

With its distinct sculptural shape, The Eiffel Tower has indeed become
one of the most recognizable landmarks in the world,
and a towering symbol of the great city of Paris.



GA Sky Suites are two juxtaposed sculptural forms – one circular, containing the residential units and the other curvilinear, containing office spaces – that combine to form a single, dramatically noticeable building. The roof line angles towards the sky, giving it an iconic, easily recognizable appearance. Viewed from every angle, it will be a stunning new landmark that will redefine the city's skyline.



Witness the rising of a brave, new landmark.

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MEXICAN-inspired Casa Ibiza

GLOBE Asiatique's development of St. Monique Valais was inspired by French chalets.

THE SECRET OF THEIR SUCCESS

THE Victorian Duplex of Globe Asiatique's St. Monique Valais development was adopted as the design of the Pinoy Big Brother home.

From page 13

mental in laying the future of Globe Asiatique through her marketing prowess and innate feel for what the market wants.

The model-turned-real-estate-maven started doing commercials at the age of 7 and moved on to the runway during her teenage years.

Now focusing on Globe Asiatique marketing and sales, Divine shares, "I am still my father's daughter. And a part of me deeply shares his passion for seeing the company grow."

So today, Divine supervises and maps out major projects like the GA Twin towers, Chateau Valenzuela, Santa Barbara Villas, Saint Monique Valais, Casa Ibiza, Pampanga Enclave, GA Stack, and of course, the breakthrough project, the GA Sky Suites.

Divine started from the bottom by doing the tedious work of a sales agent: giving out fliers in mall booths and entertaining clients. The experience let her see the workings of the business and provided her a unique insight into the industry.

"I saw where the system could be improved, what needed fixing and how a well-functioning system leads to greater opportunities and prospects for growth."

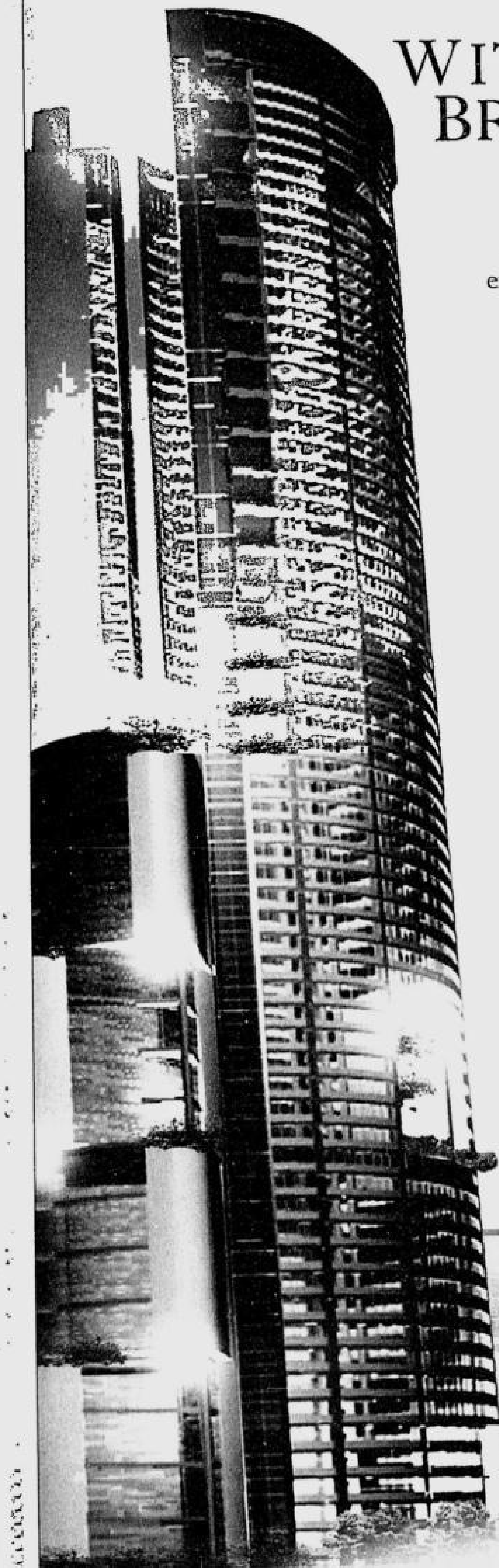
From being a sales agent, Divine was promoted to "broker," a level where she learned how to manage people under her direct employ, using their abilities and uniting them into a team focused on attaining business targets.

As the current head of the marketing and international sales division at Globe Asiatique (GA), Divine spots opportunities such as being involved in hit shows like the Pinoy Big Brother, Pinoy Dream Academy, and Wowowee.

More than just closing deals and engaging in marketing ventures, what Divine Lee has really done is inspire others within Globe Asiatique. Truly business-oriented, media-savvy, and still a model to many, Divine never forgets to have a heart in this business.

"My father always tells me, no endeavor flourishes without heart. It's how milestones are made. It's the foundation of success."

TOPNOTCH style and function in one space



WITNESS THE RISING OF A BRAVE, NEW LANDMARK.

Stunning
in its shape and over-all design, GA Sky Suites will stand as a new and exciting landmark that will redefine the Quezon City skyline. Its unique layout affords residents equally stunning panoramic views from all sides of the building – from the Manila Bay in the west, the midland hills in the north, and the business districts in the south.

Conveniently located and Accesible
adjacent to two very busy thoroughfares, EDSA and Quezon Avenue, GA Sky Suites is truly in the main hub of the metropolis.

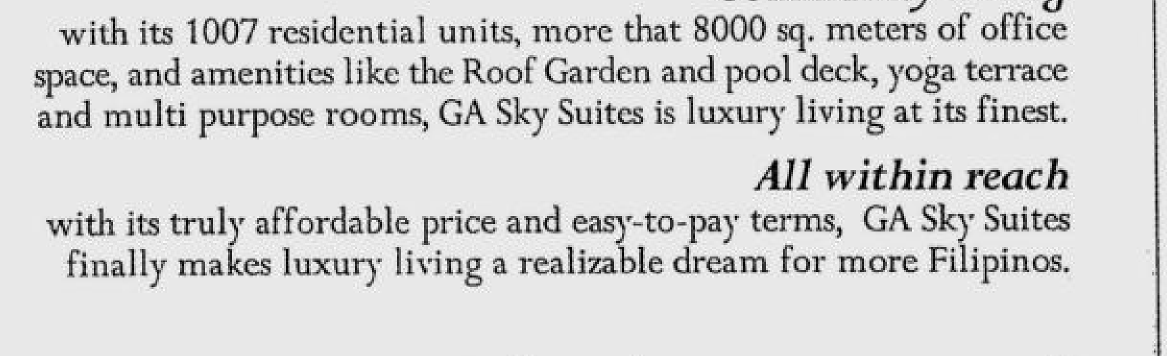
Bio Friendly
in its design, GA Sky Suites utilizes natural light and ventilation. It is the first development project to incorporate Sky Gardens – refreshing areas of greenery in various levels of the building, giving its residents a piece of nature even above ground.

Community living
with its 1007 residential units, more that 8000 sq. meters of office space, and amenities like the Roof Garden and pool deck, yoga terrace and multi purpose rooms, GA Sky Suites is luxury living at its finest.

All within reach
with its truly affordable price and easy-to-pay terms, GA Sky Suites finally makes luxury living a realizable dream for more Filipinos.

Make it your own!
Call us now at (632) 927-8888!

Join us on April 20 to 22 as we celebrate the rising of the city's boldest and newest landmark!



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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

special feature

iDesign:

An exciting new way of personalizing your home!

By Marlet D. Salazar

The urban setting in the Philippines has never been this exciting and dynamic. City slickers light up the metro with their ever-changing lifestyle. Somehow, they help define what city living really means.

Living in this concrete jungle has never been this busy. Upper urbanites now opt to make condominiums their permanent abode. They are always on the go and need a home that suits their fast-paced lifestyle.

And like most homeowners, every person wants their homes, or in this case their units, to exude their own personality through the interiors of their homes. They want to have that feel of well, just being at home with themselves.

But designing your own home, although exciting, is no easy task. It entails quick decision-making on the most important to the most trivial details in designing. Add to that the headaches of engaging your own architects, contractors and interior designer and the hassles of securing the necessary permits. For people who live a hectic life these can build up some pressure.

This is why Community Innovations, the trailblazing subsidiary of Ayala Land, came up with *iDesign*, a real estate breakthrough that will make every Community Innovations homebuyer's life much easier. With *iDesign*, the future homeowners can now eliminate the hassle of renovating their unit.

iDesign, a first in the real estate industry, allows buyers of Community Innovations properties the chance to customize their units even before it is turned over to them.

"Innovation is a way of life in our company. With the customer in mind, we continually strive to come up with groundbreaking products and services that address their needs.," said Dan Abando, president, Community Innovations. "With *iDesign*, we want to give our customers the flexibility and freedom to personalize their unit and tailor-fit it to their own taste."

iDesign spells convenience for the buyers. Traditionally, homebuyers would strip down the turned-over unit and replace the fixture and finishes with their own preference. Imagine the waste of time and money as well as the inconvenience to the unit-owners who bear the noise and clutter of construction.

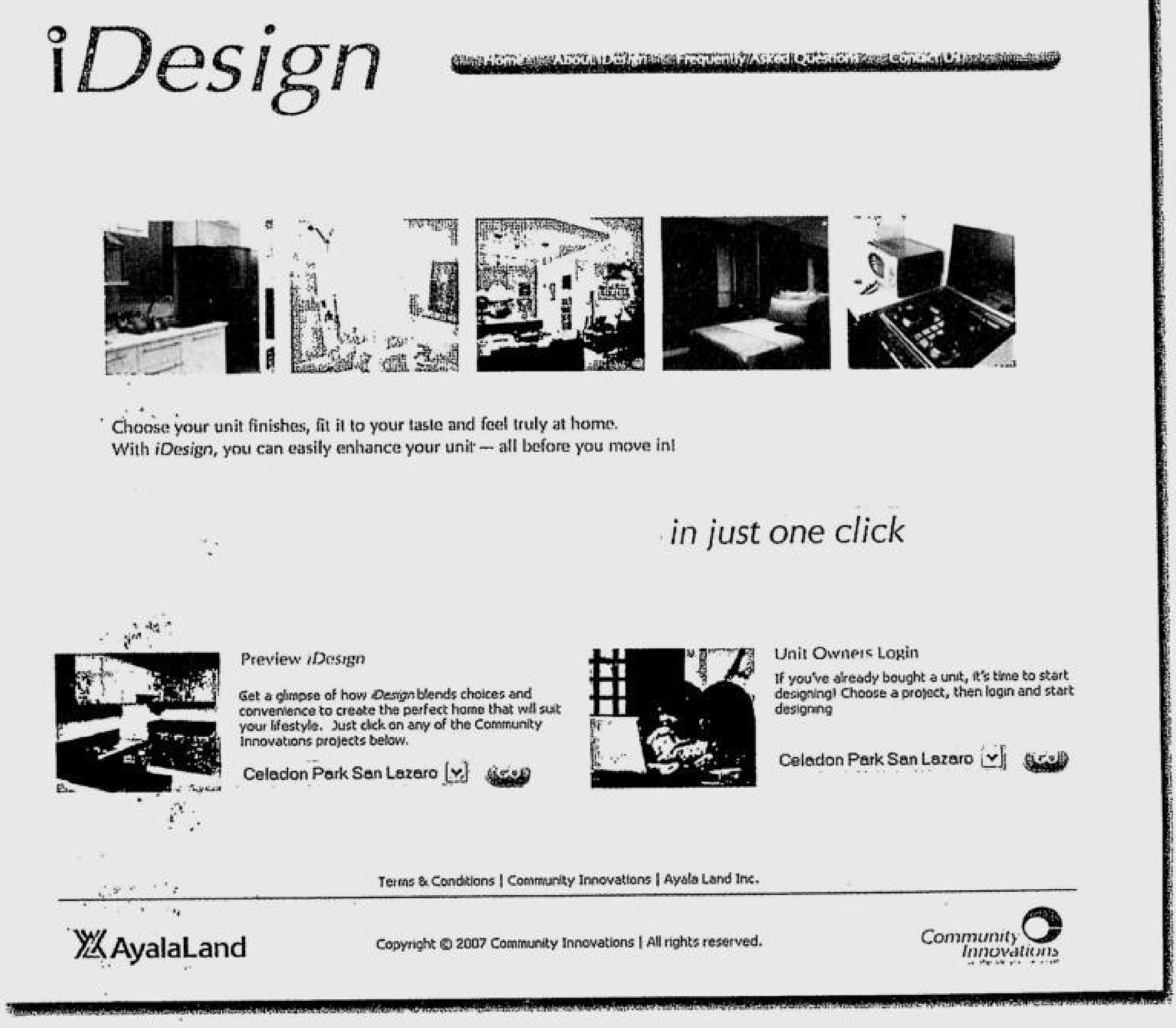
Buyers nowadays are more knowledgeable on the different finishes, amenities, and features in real estate. They know exactly what they want and how they want it executed.

iDesign gives unit-owners the luxury of visualizing the precise look that they want for certain areas in their units. The customization is done through the Internet via *iDesign*'s official website.

"Before, it was hard to visualize the look the buyers want," said Jan Chavez, project development officer of Community Innovations, "Now they can see the changes in real time and will have the visual appreciation of what the look will be."

With *iDesign*, buyers can mix and match material finishes for the different areas of their unit. They have a free hand in choosing the materials fit for their home, from the tiles to the kitchen countertops. They can choose from the materials made available by Community Innovations.

IDESIGN/J2



Choose your unit finishes, fit it to your taste and feel truly at home.
With *iDesign*, you can easily enhance your unit — all before you move in!

in just one click

Preview *iDesign*

Get a glimpse of how *iDesign* blends choices and convenience to create the perfect home that will suit your lifestyle. Just click on any of the Community Innovations projects below.

Celadon Park San Lazaro ▾ GO

Unit Owners Login

If you've already bought a unit, it's time to start designing! Choose a project, then login and start designing

Celadon Park San Lazaro ▾ GO

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AyalaLand

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Community Innovations

DAN Abando, president, Community Innovations.

iDesign. Ar
# of pers

COMMUNITY Innovations' Team i*Design* (Standing from left): Edwin Yabut, senior project architect; Carmina Cruz, client relations manager; Eunice Acejo, senior marketing services manager; Grace Sta. Ana, project development manager; Lalaine Corpuz, marketing services officer; Juan Jericho Francisco, project director; Charlene Pangilinan, i*Design* associate and Jan Chavez, project development officer.

While doing the mixing-and-matching, the cor
price is also flashed on the screen. This way, one ca
the budget for the renovations.

There are two ways to avail of the customizatio
Detailed Unit Customization helps the buyers to choos
wide range of material finishes offered that will go i
of the unit. Choose to customize the living room onl
only, or kitchen only, if not all of these areas.

"Based on the study made by the project team, th
with more than 8,000 combinations that the buyer
from," Abando said.

Flooring
Cabinets

Over 8,000 poss

iDesign

www.idesign.com.ph

exciting new way onalizing your home!

From page J1

esponding
easily fix

offerings.
e from the
each area
, bedroom

y came up
an choose

If the buyer still finds it tedious to personally hand-pick each material, customization by package is also available. *iDesign* has created *Professionally Designed Packages* where the materials have been pre-selected for all the areas of the home.

"The pre-selected finishes are done by expert architects and interior designers," Abando said.

This type of service will be of greater help not only for urban people but also for Overseas Filipinos who don't have much time to do the chores in buying and developing their units.

Mr. Abando said that the Overseas Filipinos can still avail themselves of *iDesign* once they get back to the country where they work. *iDesign* is web-based and easy-to-use. After the preliminaries in buying a property, the buyer will be given a username and password to access the iDesign website.

Aside from the *iDesign* website, Community Innovations will also make available *iDesign* showrooms for those who want to view the actual finishes. An *iDesign* showroom is now available for viewing at the Celadon Park San Lazaro in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Other showrooms will soon be available for the different projects of Community Innovations.

"There are buyers who still want to actually see the finishes," Abando said.

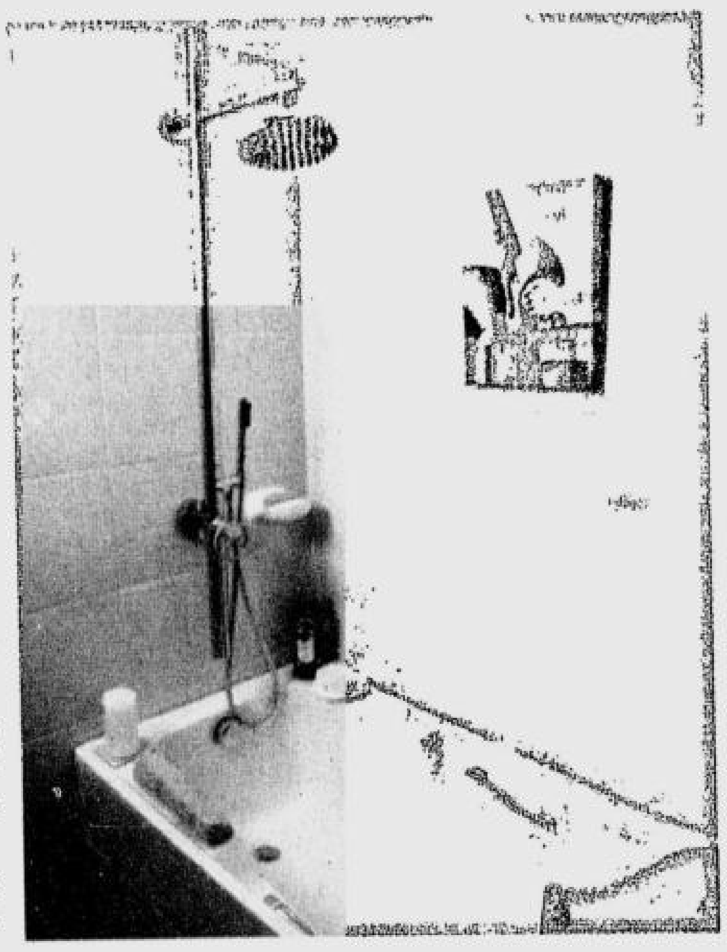
One of the best things about *iDesign* is the 15-30 percent significant cost savings of the buyers. If the buyer wants to customize only one area, about 15 percent of the total cost will be saved.

Unlike most renovations where one has to make a cash-out payment, with *iDesign* the upgrade costs can be included in the monthly amortization.

For the Filipinos, having their own home is one of their ultimate dreams. But it should come with much anticipation and less worry. Convenience for them should start already at the reservation of their unit of choice. The rest will follow with the expertise of Community Innovations who has helped redefine urban living.

Community Innovations' *iDesign* affirms its commitment and understanding of the real estate market. It continuously aims to provide ultimate value in their customers' prized investments through their innovations to address the ever-changing residential lifestyle needs of the upscale market.

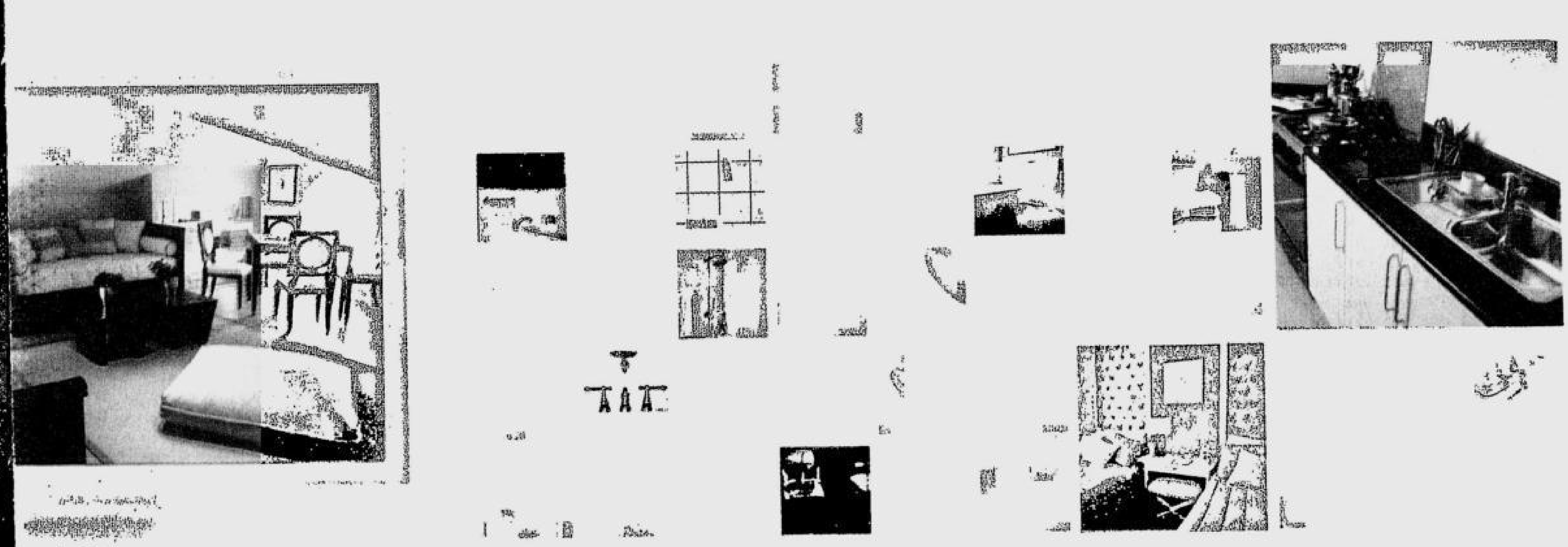
Visit www.idesign.com.ph or call (632) 849-0538



With *iDesign*, buyers can mix and match material finishes for the different areas of their unit. They have a free hand in choosing the materials fit for their home, from the tiles to the kitchen countertops. They can choose from the materials made available by Community Innovations.

Another real estate breakthrough from... Community Innovations
Live the life you deserve
an AyalaLand company

ibilities in just one click



Here's another reason why your next home should be from Community Innovations.

Let your ideas become reality and design a home that's uniquely yours... your style, your taste... until your space is just right.

Mix and match pieces according to your individual preferences and personalize your own space. Choose your unit finishes and feel truly at home. Or simply choose from any of the professionally designed packages to make things even easier. Just by accessing the web, you can easily enhance your unit anytime, anywhere – all before you even move in! It's unparalleled convenience that's totally hassle-free so settling in will be a breeze.

CHOICE and CONVENIENCE. Style and function. Indulge in over 8,000 possibilities in just one click.
iDesign. An exclusive offer from Community Innovations.

Contact us at tel nos: (632) 849-0538 email: idesign.cii@ayalaland.com.ph

Pana Foundation revitalized

PANAF chair Blen Fernando strives for a better, socially responsible Panaf in 2007.

THE PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL Advertisers (Pana) is the biggest and oldest non-stock, non-profit organization that unites the users of advertising belonging to every major industry in the country. Composed of more than 300 member companies, Pana recognizes and fulfills its role and leadership in the advertising industry as a self-regulatory body that is committed to the promotion of "Truth in Advertising".

In 1980, Pana established its very own foundation to serve as its advocacy and industry relations arm. The Pana Foundation (Panaf) aims to have a society that is aware of, involved, and empowered in tackling issues relevant to its well being with regard to the advertising industry, and to take on a pro-active stance on national issues affecting consumers and the general public.

Three years ago, the foundation was revitalized to be more responsive to the needs of the times and to make philanthropy a permanent part of its mission.

Through its annual Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) Student Competition Awards, college students from all over the country are given the chance to conceptualize, design, and present an IMC plan that incorporates the different communication theories learned from school into a strategy that is well-worth using for an actual marketing campaign.

The competition brings together some of the country's top marketing leaders and gurus to inspire the minds and hearts of the young and self-motivated students while challenging them to face up to the industry's shifting needs and advancing standards. It attracts more than 1,000 students in attendance and dozens of schools as contestants and is perhaps the biggest student competition in the country.

Panaf's advocacy of furthering the marketing profession is enhanced by a partnership with the De la Salle University-Graduate School of Business (DLSU-GSB) for a Diploma Course in Integrated Marketing. The program aims to develop and train students' analytical and creative planning skills through the integration of the Decision Support System - a class of computer-based information systems that support decision making activities such as market analysis, pricing, and other "what-if" analyses.

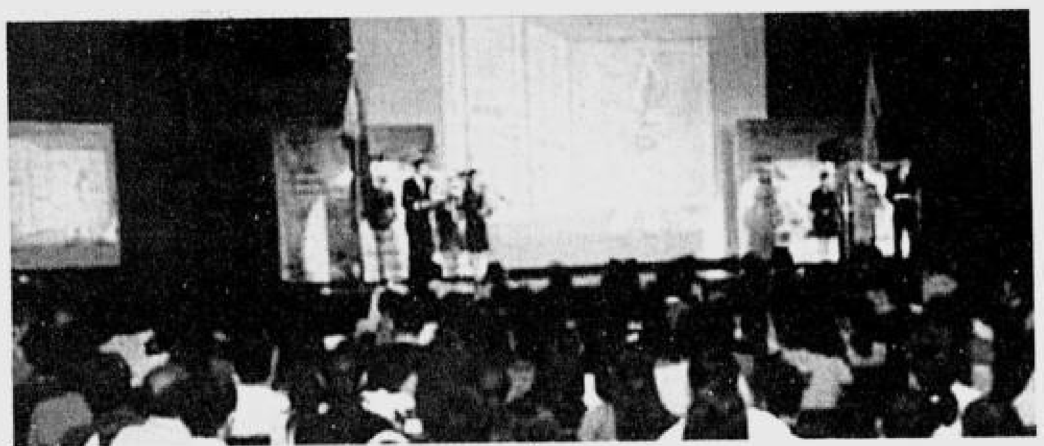
High caliber marketing and advertising experts have been invited as guest speakers for the various modules. Their indisputable knowledge on the subject matter honed by years of involvement in the industry will surely make room for best practices, comprehensive discussions and exchange of ideas. Former Pana president and Panaf chair, Roberto "Bobby" H. Sumulong, is this year's program director. He is joined by Agapito "Jun" G. Alcantara of Asia Brewery who was appointed as the over-all course facilitator.

Starting this year, Panaf shall have a speaker's bureau at the disposal of schools requesting for resource persons to share best practices in the advertising industry. The foundation will also embark on an advertising road show that will educate small and medium businesses on advertising ethics and practices in key cities all over the country.

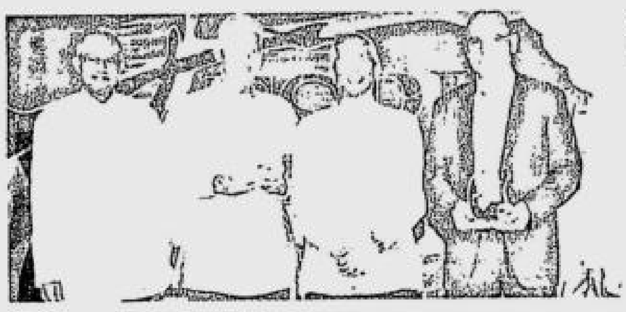
With Pana as host to the best minds in the advertising industry, harnessing that pool of talent to be of service to the country shall find its realization through Panaf. With the team of Pana and Panaf, the coming years will surely see a more revitalized and socially involved organization.

The Pana Foundation, under its own board of trustees, has for its members not only current Pana member-company representatives but even former Pana members who have retired from the corporate world or have gone into their own businesses and friends of Pana who come from the business sector or the academe.

Former Pana president Blen M. Fernando (VP - marketing, Alaska Milk Corp) has been elected as chairp of the Pana Foundation (Panaf) for 2007. She leads the Panaf board of trustees composed of vice chair - Roberto F. Banaag (first vice president - corporate communications Dept, Plantersbank), secretary - Gigi J. Tibi (marketing and visual merchandising head, Golden ABC Inc [Penshoppe]), treasurer - Ma. Elena M. Dayrit (president, Gold's Gym), PRO - Robert Labayen (vice president - creative communication management, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp), trustees -, Cristina D. Esguerra (division manager-marketing services, Ayala Land Inc), Dr. Leonardo Garcia Jr. (professor, De La Salle University), Charlie B. Manio (advertising and media director, Cebu Pacific Air), Grace Mercado (marketing services manager, Commonwealth Foods Inc), Marilyn C. Pozon (marketing services manager, Monde Nissin Corp), and Manuel P. Quiogue (president, GMA Marketing and Productions Inc).



PANAF's IMC awards attracts more than a thousand attendees annually.



MICRO FINANCE PIONEERS

Tulay sa Pagunlad Inc (TSPI), a leading micro finance non-government organization with a loan portfolio of over P530 million recently marked its 25th anniversary, by recognizing two prime movers in its early years. Founder David Bussau (second from left) and first executive director Leigh Coleman (fourth from left) were given plaques of appreciation by TSPI officers Rene Cristobal, Ruben de Lara and Lamberto Meer. Unknown to many, the Philippines has become a showcase for its micro finance programs that consist of lending out an average sum of P8,000 to vendors, tricycle drivers and the like. Infused into micro businesses run by the poor, the loans help the marginalized put more food on the table and purchase other necessities. A testimony of its effectivity, TSPI has a repayment rate of 99 per cent proving that the poor are good borrowers. The figure is much higher than the repayment rate of large Philippine banks that lend to affluent individuals.

2 million slices consumed during Greenwich's 'Pizza All You Can'

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU had a chance to hang out, unwind and possibly became part of a record-breaking feat that saw thousands of Filipinos nationwide consuming close to two million pizza slices during a two-week period?

For those who share a common love for eating pizza, Greenwich, the Philippine's no. 1 pizza chain, recently came up with something big, innovative and exciting with its "Pizza-All-You-Can" promo. For only P99 per person, pizza-loving diners gobbled to their heart's content all the Double Primo Hawaiian and Double Primo Pepperoni pizza they could possibly want, when they visited any of the 223 participating Greenwich outlets from 11 a.m. up to 2 p.m.

Pizza aficionados nationwide were all united in ordering non-stop servings of Hawaiian pizza, Classic Ham and Cheese with sweet pineapple tidbits and zesty Pepperoni pizza, extra meaty bite with loads of pepperoni slices. What's more, they enjoyed this exciting treat with their favorite bottomless Coke for only P29.

As early as 10 a.m., customers already lined up in anticipation of eating the most number of pizza slices that they can. There were some who couldn't wait to be seated that they ate their pizza by the counter while others ate standing. But overall, in spite of the rush and the crowd in the stores, each one truly enjoyed their Greenwich pizza experience.

"We want more people to experience delicious discoveries at Greenwich. This is why we offered non-stop pizza servings on a nationwide scale. We always go the extra mile in providing an enjoyably creative combination of delicious food, service and ambience that resonates perfectly with Filipinos, which makes for a different kind of bonding experience that cannot be found in any pizza/pasta place except Greenwich," Greenwich marketing manager Lulu de Castro said.

BPI lets you grow your deposits and be rewarded

BPI LETS YOU GROW YOUR deposit the fulfilling way by giving you the privilege of choosing from a wide selection of lavish gifts that fit your taste and lifestyle. Enjoy this exclusive reward when you deposit to a new or existing Savings, Checking, or Time Deposit account starting at P300,000. The bigger the amount you deposit, the grander your complimentary perk.

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But that's not all. On top of getting complimentary gifts with your BPI deposits, you get a chance to win amazing prizes in three raffle draws. It is so easy to join. Every P5,000 deposit in a Savings or Checking account or P25,000 in a Time Deposit entitles you to a raffle entry. The more you save, the more chances of winning.

Save up with BPI now and get a chance to enjoy theater-style movie entertainment right in your own living room when you win the Complete Home Entertainment Package in the first draw. Meanwhile, the second draw lets you shop to your heart's delight with a 60-minute Shopping Spree at Greenbelt 4 SSI stores worth P500,000. And, the prize gets more luxurious in the grand draw, as BPI gives away a dream vacation trip for a family or group of 4 for 5 days/4 nights to the island of Maldives with accommodations plus $1,000 pocket money!

So grow your deposit with BPI, BPI Family Savings Bank or BPI Direct today and start enjoying the compliments that you truly deserve.

BPI "A World of Compliments" Promo runs from Feb. 1 through Nov. 30. For more details, please call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. Or, visit any BPI, BPI Express, BPI Express Banking Center or BPI Family Savings Bank branch near you.

ProductFiles

Keep tabs on your clothes

NOW, IT'S EASY TO MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS' clothes and backpacks return home from school each day, or at least can be picked up at week's end in the lost-and-found. With Dymo's easy-to-handle and easy-to-load electronic labelmakers and Dymo's newest fabric iron-on tape, you simply print a label, peel off the back and iron onto clothing, sports equipment or any gear. LetraTag electronic models are designed for the world of fabric labeling and more. With a built-in memory for saving that last label you printed, it's easy to label your kid's clothes, hats, gloves, towels and bathing suits - just print, peel and iron directly onto fabrics. This machine also prints on paper, plastic and metallic labels in variety of colors -just the right tool for labeling and organizing everything in your home or home office: storage boxes, photo albums, toys, CDs, shelves, light switches, circuit breakers, files, folders, garden supplies, food containers, tool box compartments. The LetraTag QX50 gives you the same label versatility as our handheld model with its familiar QWERTY keyboard, comfortable "in-the-palm-of-your-hand" fit, and larger LCD display. Dymo is available at all leading bookstores and department stores nationwide. For inquiries, please contact times@pldtdsl.net.

US CONGRESSMAN VISITS CONVERGYS PHILIPPINES

US Rep. Steve Chabot of the First District of Ohio (center, seated) is oriented on the local operations of Cincinnati, Ohio-based Convergys Corp by Convergys vice president and country manager Marife Zamora. The congressman made a rare visit to Convergys One, the Philippine executive offices of the country's largest multi-client contact center operations. Shown with him during his visit are (seated, from left) Convergys one site director Brett Hyde; US Embassy Sr. Commercial Counselor Judy Reinke and Convergys director for asset management Jojo Lloren. Standing are US Embassy Political Officer Adam Scarlatelli and Convergys senior commercial specialist Aida Miranda.

RMHC RECEIVES GOLD QUILL AWARD

Kenneth Yang, president of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) receives the 2007 Gold Quill Award of Excellence given by the International Association of Business Communicators for the Bright Minds Read Program. The award recognizes best practices and the highest level of achievement by communicators in thought leadership, technical skills and sustainable solution for successful programs. The Bright Minds Read is a beginning reading program in partnership with Department of Education. Kenneth is joined by the RMHC board members Dimpy Camara, Mary Gocheco and lawyer Jiji Fernandez (not in the photo) and RMHC executive director, Zonito Torrevillas.

TG4 OUTSOURCING INKS MOA WITH MS GLOBAL

TG4 Outsourcing, LLC of Michigan, USA with its CEO Amy Lesada, signed a MOA with Multi-Scribe Global Outsourcing, headed by its chair and CEO, Malu Simeon-Florendo with Aries Mendoza, ITC officer and Roly Disini, chief finance officer. TG4 Outsourcing is the new representative of the local outsourcing company in central US for medical, legal and business transcription services. The collaboration is a result of the mission's business matching activity.

CARMINA IS NEWEST PAYLESS MAMI ENDORSER

Actress and TV host Carmina Villarroel is enjoying life. Aside from her busy showbiz schedule, she is also having a wonderful time fulfilling her role as mother to twins Maverick and Cassandra. And this role is best seen in her latest TV commercial for Payless Mami. Carmina recently signed a contract with Universal Robina Corp as the newest endorser of Payless Instant Noodle. Payless is the smart choice of practical and value conscious moms like Carmina because it offers more for less. It is blended with high quality ingredients, fortified with multivitamins and produced with choice blend of spices. Aside from its delectable taste, Carmina admits that she loves serving Payless 'Mas Pinasarap' Mami to her family due to its variety of flavors such as beef, chicken and spicy chicken and beef. Present during the contract signing are: Timothy Tan, assistant brand manager, Carmina Villarroel, and Payless senior brand manager Owen Cruz.

SGV WINS ANVIL AWARDS

SGV & Co recently won awards at the 42nd Anvil Awards. The 2006 Tax Calendar garnered an Award of Merit under the Tools for Public Relations - External Publications (Calendar) category. Meanwhile, a short video which depicts the life of SGV founder Washington SyCip, A Letter to Alaska, won an Award of Merit under the Tools for Public Relations - Electronic and Interactive Media (Audio-Visual) category. In photo are (from left): SGV senior editor Enrico Ernesto Abola, SGV senior graphic designer Wilfred de Vera, 42nd Anvil Awards committee chair Butch S. Raquel, PRSP president Milen Sison de Quiros, Anvil Awards board of jurors chair Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno, and SGV tax services co-head Emmanuel C. Alcantara.

FOUR GOLD QUILL AWARDS FOR STRATWORKS

Stratworks Marketing Communications, a trailblazing marketing communications agency, was awarded two Gold Quill Excellence Awards for the 'Kaya ng Pinoy' campaign for the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition and for Avon's Walk Against Breast Cancer advocacy, and another two Merit Awards for JG Summit's 50th Anniversary celebration and for Avon's Gintong Ilawan campaign. Shown in photo are (from left) Stratworks promo and events senior managers Isabel Rondares and Becky Benitez, media relations supervisor Harold Geronimo, P&E manager Enrie Legaspi, associate accounts director Iris Reyes, managing director Donna Nievera-Conda, creative services director Oliver Conda, P&E director Liezl Rustia, client services director Rey Ganayo, accounts supervisor Tin Gonzalez and associate PR director Mark Christian Parlade

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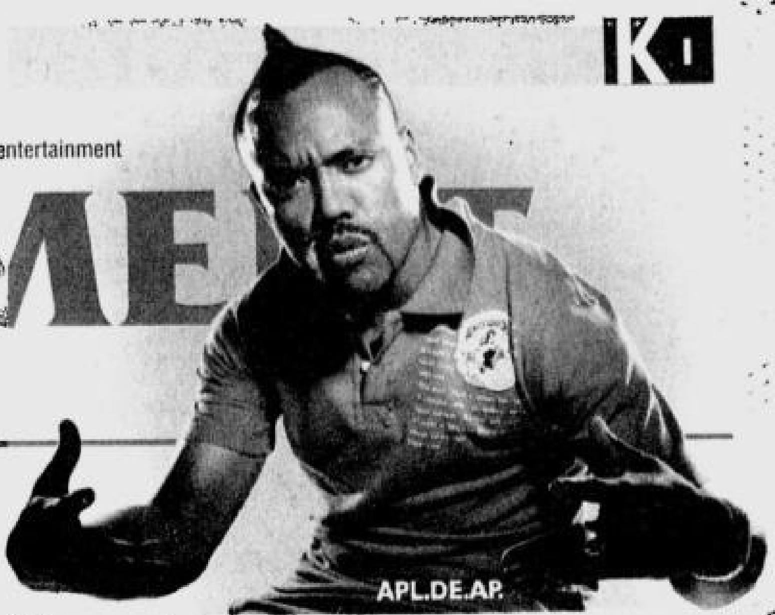

APL.DE.AP.

No need to know what 'Bebot' is

The hit written by Apl. de. Ap. is sung in places that the Black-Eyed Peas has toured

By Kathryn Fatima Reyes

WHEN you're in a London club and suddenly hear people singing "Bebot, bebot," it should come as no surprise.

The worldwide hit dance ditty was composed by Filipino-born Apl. de. Ap., one-fourth of the Grammy-winning group Black-Eyed Peas (the other three are will.i.am., Taboo and Fergie).

During a press conference on Friday, where Apl was launched as the latest endorser of the apparel line Human, he said he had written the song as a tribute "to all hot Filipino chicks." He added, grinning, "And also because I have an Auntie Bebot."

Thankful

. Apl said he was thankful—and proud—that the song has been embraced by many nationalities.

"You'd be surprised," he said. "We'd be touring different countries, and I'd walk around or go to the mall and I'd see groups of young people strolling and singing, 'Bebot, bebot.' Sometimes they cannot even pronounce it. They go, like, "Bibat, bibat."

The first Filipino Grammy awardee also said people have told him they don't know what "Bebot" means. "But they think it's a good song and they love it."

All-Filipino

"Bebot," a track in Black-Eyed Peas' second album, "Monkey Business," is purely Filipino. Even its music video, shot in Los Angeles, has an all-Filipino cast and production design—it features a jeepney that was rented in Las Vegas.

Earlier, in one track of the group's first album, "Elephunk," Apl also incorporated Tagalog lyrics from Pinoy rock band Asin's "Balita" (*"Lapit mga kaibigan at makinig kayo ako'y may daladalang balita galing sa bayan ko nais kong ipamahagi ang mga kwento ang mga pangyayaring nagaganap sa lupang pinangako"*). The song is titled, fittingly enough, "The Apl Song."

It tells of the lyricist's life story, and it has become one of the band's biggest hits.

Pampanga-born

Apl was born Allan Pineda to a poor family in Angeles, Pampanga. When he was 14, he was adopted by an American couple who brought him to the United States. He was very hesitant to leave his family.

"We were poor, but I didn't feel [impoverished] because we were always *masaya*," he said.

Now, his biological mother is in the United States, too, and he's working on bringing over his siblings as well.

Aside from singing, performing and writing music, Apl is into record production. He has his own label, Jeepney Music, which exclusively carries Pinoy artists.

At the same time, Apl is busy working on his first solo album, in which he will be collaborating with Mary J. Blige, John Legend and, he excitedly announced, Lolita Carbon of Asin. He wants this solo album to have more Tagalog songs in it.

Filipino at heart? Certainly, even if he has long been based in California.

The best thing

Asked what he thought was the best thing about being Filipino, he replied: "We are a humble, determined and hardworking people. "I think it helped me a lot when I got to America because I had no opportunity in my hands at the time; I had to make it," he said.

And that opportunity that he created for himself has brought him a long way, but definitely.

MYGLOBE INFO + FUN + ATBP

"Gusto kong maka-duet si Beyoncé."

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3	One Night Only	Jennifer Hudson	SB077	1NIGHT
4	One Night Only (Disco)	Dreamgirls	SB078	1NIGHT
5	Cadillac Car	Dreamgirls	SB092	CAD
6	Fake Your Way To The Top	Dreamgirls	SB093	FAKE
7	Family	Dreamgirls	SB094	FAMILY
8	It's All Over	Dreamgirls	SB098	ALLOVER
9	I Want You Baby	Dreamgirls	SB099	IWANTU
10	Move	Dreamgirls	SB100	MOVE
11	I Am Changing	Jennifer Hudson	SB096	
12	I Meant You No Harm	Eddie Murphy	SB097	
13	When I First Saw You	Jamie Foxx	SB101	IFIRST
14	When I First Saw You (Duet)	JFoxx/Dreamgirls	SB102	IFIRSTDUET
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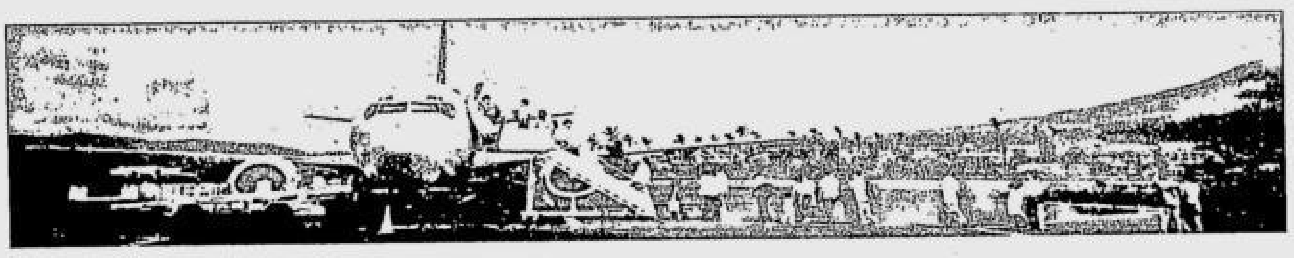

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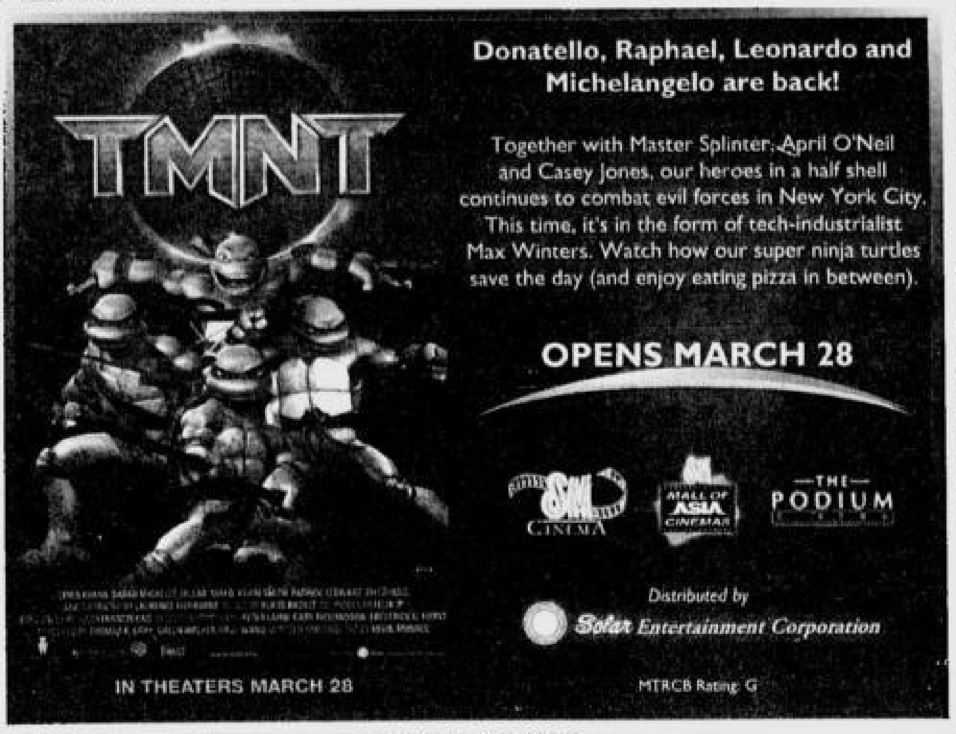

Donatello, Raphael, Leonardo and Michelangelo are back!

Together with Master Splinter, April O'Neil and Casey Jones, our heroes in a half shell continues to combat evil forces in New York City. This time, it's in the form of tech-industrialist Max Winters. Watch how our super ninja turtles save the day (and enjoy eating pizza in between).

OPENS MARCH 28

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Admission Fee- P250
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1 TURISTAS
2 PATHFINDER
3 NORBIT
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO/ DREAMGIRLS
5 ALPHA DOG
6 ZOMBIES
PREMIERE CINEMA
PREMONITION
CENTERSTAGE
300
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
300
CINEMA 2
NORBIT
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 YOU GOT ME
2 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
3 ZOMBIES
4 PATHFINDER
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO
7 300
8 NORBIT
9 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
10 ALPHA DOG
11 TURISTAS
12 PREMONITION

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 TURISTAS
2 YOU GOT ME
3 PREMONITION
4 300
5 BECAUSE I SAID SO
6 PATHFINDER
7 ALPHA DOG
8 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
9 HAPPY HEARTS
10 NORBIT
11 SIQUIJOR
12 ZOMBIES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
2 BECAUSE I SAID SO
3 DREAMGIRLS
4 300
5 YOU GOT ME
6 NORBIT
7 TURISTAS
8 PREMONITION
9 ZOMBIES
10 GHOST RIDER
11 PATHFINDER
12 HAPPY HEARTS

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 NORBIT
2 TURISTAS
3 300
4 PREMONITION
5 HAPPY HEARTS
6 ZOMBIE
7 PATHFINDER
8 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
9 ALPHA DOG
10 YOU GOT ME

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 300
2 PREMONITION
3 ZOMBIES
4 TURISTAS
5 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
6 NORBIT

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 PREMONITION
2 NORBIT
3 ZOMBIES
4 300
5 ALPHA DOG
6 PATHFINDER
7 HAPPY HEARTS
8 TURISTAS
9 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 TURISTAS
2 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 300

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 TURISTAS
2 ALPHA DOG
3 PREMONITION
4 PATHFINDER
5 NORBIT
6 300
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1 300
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
3 DREAM GIRLS
4 PATHFINDER

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1 300
2 DREAMGIRLS
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2 300
3 TURISTAS
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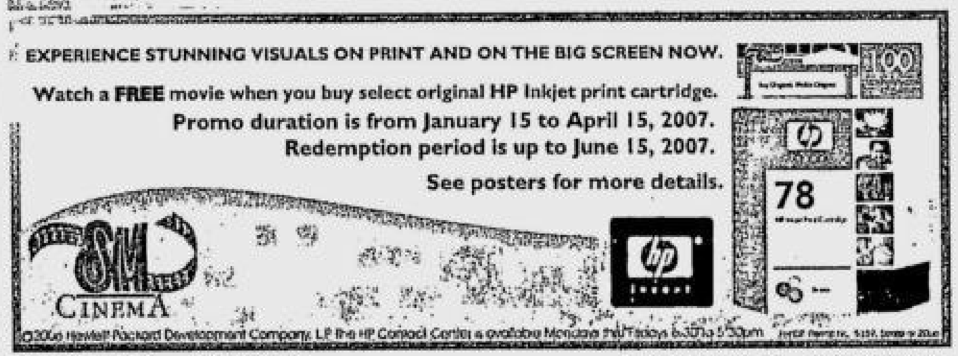

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2 YOU GOT ME
3 PREMONITION
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5 300
6 HAPPY HEARTS
7 TURISTAS
8 PATHFINDER

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 300
2 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
3 NUMBER 23
4 THE HITCHER
5 MONAY NI MR. SHOOLI
6 HAPPY HEARTS

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1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
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2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 EPIC MOVIE
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REVIEW

WHICH IS WHICH? Beatles look-alikes and sound-alikes—David Leon as John Lennon, Jeff Toczynski as Paul McCartney, David Brighton as George Harrison and Mike Sarafian at Ringo Starr.

Beatles tribute band in Manila

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

AS IMPERSONATORS, the members of Apple Band not only sound like the Beatles; they also seem to have imbibed the Fab Four's wit and irreverence.

While preparing to sing a few numbers for journalists to promote the three-night concert "The Beatles Forever with the Apple Band," Mike Sarafian (as Ringo Starr) asked, "Why don't we do 'Satisfaction'?"

Strumming an acoustic guitar, David Leon (as John Lennon) said he had a better idea and proceeded to sing a Cascades tune: "Listen to the rhythm of the falling rain…"

The guys kept ribbing each other but suddenly turned serious when it was time to perform. Two numbers, "I'll Be Back" and "If I Fell," sounded a lot like John, Paul, George and Ringo unplugged.

The Apple Band likewise looked authentic from head to toe—the mop top hair, tailored suits and Chelsea boots resembled what the Beatles sported in 1964, when they first conquered America through the "Ed Sullivan Show."

Cameo appearance

Sullivan, incidentally, makes a cameo appearance (portrayed by actor Michael Sherman) in the gigs.

Toczynski, short in height and heavier in weight but almost a carbon copy of McCartney's boyish face, made the observation that audiences of tribute bands tend to be very observant and critical on the moves and sounds they make. "They know if you're not doing it properly."

Born in Ohio from a Polish father and Jewish mother, Toczynski was thrilled to have seen Julian Lennon (John's son from his marriage with Cynthia Powell), Denny Laine (guitarist of McCartney's former band Wings), George Harrison's sister and a host of others in the audience of Apple Band shows.

To which David Brighton (as George Harrison) joked: "Yeah, Julian enjoyed it so much. He was throwing a lot of things on stage though…"

Prior to joining the Apple Band, Brighton was a member of several groups that played their own music, most notably Quiet Riot.

How many Beatle songs can you play?

Brighton: 170, out of some 260 songs the Beatles wrote.

Toczynski: But we only get to play 30 to 40 on every show.

What's the most difficult?

Brighton: "While My Guitar Gently Weeps."

Which of the Beatles' contemporaries do you also admire?

Toczynski: The Stones and the Who. I also love '70s folk rock like Jim Croce, Cat Stevens, the Eagles, also Elton John and Simon & Garfunkel. But I'm not a fan of Eminem.

Since you happen to be imitators of the world's most popular and successful band, what do you think was the greatest statement the Beatles ever made?

Brighton: In a way, the Beatles tried saying what Jesus did, which was, "Love thy neighbor." Many of their songs were simply about love and people identified with it so much.

Special fan

When Beatlemania is revived this weekend, the biggest fans to make their presence felt my not be the baby boomers, but the family of a six-year-old girl.

The kid, Chimchim Venida, is described by her mother as a smart girl who learned to sing Beatles songs while listening to old cassette tapes and watching a DVD documentary at home in Valenzuela.

When the Venida family learned about the Apple Band concert, Chimchim reportedly asked if she could watch it as a reward for being good in school. Her parents couldn't afford the tickets, so they wrote to the Hyatt Hotel and asked for tickets to the Sunday show—even in the back rows—in return for which they offered a whole week's work for free.

The family was given front row tickets. For Chimchim, it's got to be the biggest treat.

BRAVO!
Lani Misalucha's recent one-night-only concert at the Araneta Coliseum was truly a huge success. The Big Dome was packed and bouncing and, to quote one starry-eyed follower, "*Lahat nasiyahan* (Everyone was satisfied)." Sighted among the spectators were local concert artists who saw, for sure, how it should be done ... indeed, how the intrepid and gifted Filipina singer won, and continues to wow, international audiences in very cutthroat Las Vegas.

TV newscasts hit new low

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LOCAL NEWSCASTS ON TELEVIsion have been lowering their standards for a long time now, in a determined bid to come up with the most "entertaining" news reports, and thus attract the largest number of viewers.

Thus have some newscasts gone from bad to worse, with their focus on "dramatizing" the news, zeroing in on crimes and scandals, generally ignoring "irrelevant" foreign news events, and neglecting the important service of news analysis.

As if this wasn't bad enough, "worse" has turned to "worst" as some newscasts have added fairly graphic sexuality to their arsenal of visual come-ons.

We see this in occasional TV coverage of raids of brothels, gay bars, clubs featuring nude dancing and moviehouses showing pornographic films.

The tone of the reportage is "concerned" and "shocked," but the images are leering and some shots of near-nudity survive the required digital airbrushing.

Of late, these graphic raids have been upstaged by similarly "shocked" reports of graphic video images of couples surreptitiously shot while having sex.

The reporters invariably rue the fact that these videos are making the rounds of some provincial cities permanently tarnishing the reputation of the female partners involved.

But this concern is not to be believed, because some fuzzy shots of the sexual action are used as "evidence" of the videos' steamy content.

Oh, please. We all know that the shots are there to titillate viewers into watching the newscasts in question.

Most recently, newscasts have taken to featuring as "show biz news" the pictorials of sexy magazines involving some female starlets. The minor luminaries in question are shown assuming all sorts of sensual poses while "dressed" in the most itty-bitty of bikinis.

What, we wonder, is the news value of these sexy pictorials that rationalize their inclusion in the evening news?

We further note that sexy magazines' readership is supposed to be restricted to adults. On the other hand, television has a "general patronage" viewership—so what are these graphically sexy pictorials doing on a "GP" medium?

Responsible broadcast journalists would ask these questions as a matter of course, but it appears that in the face of the heightened competition for ratings, responsibility has been replaced by exigency.

If TV people can't be relied on to do the right thing, others should remind them of their obligation to do their work responsibly and professionally—in no uncertain terms.

Watching groups, parents, religious leaders, educators, even young people who feel that their right to responsible programming is being trampled on—all aggrieved parties should make known their displeasure at this new low, so erring TV news people will realize that they *can't* blithely get away with "sexcess."

Rudolf Golez

ON MARCH 29, talented Filipino pianist **Rudolf Golez** will perform the works of the great Hungarian pianist-composer **Franz Liszt** at Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall. Annotations by noted musicologist and pianist **Russel Brandon** will be provided.

'Norbit'

IN HIS latest comedy "Norbit," **Eddie Murphy** plays three different roles: Norbit, Rasputia and Mr. Wong.

Norbit and Rasputia are married to each other, so their scenes together were truly challenging to shoot, both for the comedian and the members of the ribald comedy's production crew.

Murphy's third character, Mr. Wong, runs the orphanage that took care of Norbit when he was a little boy.

Lessons the Big Apple has taught this Pinay filmmaker

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LIVING IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN A lesson in "survival and sacrifice" for this young Filipina filmmaker.

Don't get her wrong: Wendy Misa is having the time of her life. "Starting out is the hardest part. It takes a lot of time, effort and adjustment," she told INQUIRER Entertainment via e-mail. Artists need a second or third job, she continued. "It could be very tiring."

The Big Apple has taught her "time management and independence," she said. "It takes a lot of courage to move out of your comfort zone. I've given up a lot. The biggest sacrifice is being far away from my family."

In 2003, Wendy's independent short film, "Lover's Quarrel," made its debut in Greenwich Village theaters.

Three years later, she was back in Manila, shooting two indie films—"Temporarily Blind" and "Graveyard Shift," the latter top-billed by award-winning actor Yul Servo.

Quiet, deep

Yul said it was a pleasure collaborating with Wendy. "She's cool. It was like working with a female Lav Diaz. She's very quiet, but deep. She gave me freedom to experiment," Yul told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Yul and I were classmates in our first acting workshop with the Gantimpala Theater group in the summer of 1998," Wendy recalled.

They bumped into each other again when they judged a playwriting competition at the City College of Manila.

"We agreed to do a project," she related. "I respect the acting styles of the actors in 'Graveyard.' They are the same age as I am, so we were all like colleagues on the set."

That, in a nutshell, is her directing style. She explained: "I like working in a creative environment, making sure all cast and crew members are allowed to give their best. I try to understand actors, especially since I also have a theater background."

A former model and lead vocalist of the band Cherry Bomb, Wendy picked up the camera while still in college, taking up BA Production Design at De La Salle University-College of Saint Benilde.

She also finished an "intensive" directing program at the New York Film Academy from 2003 to 2004.

Multi-tasking

"My first short film was experimental," she said. "From a regular Sony digital camera, I shifted to a 16mm film camera. Now, I'm using a high-definition digital camera."

She endeavors to make each film different from previous ones. "I learn from past mistakes. On the sets of my movies, I wear three hats: director, scriptwriter, producer."

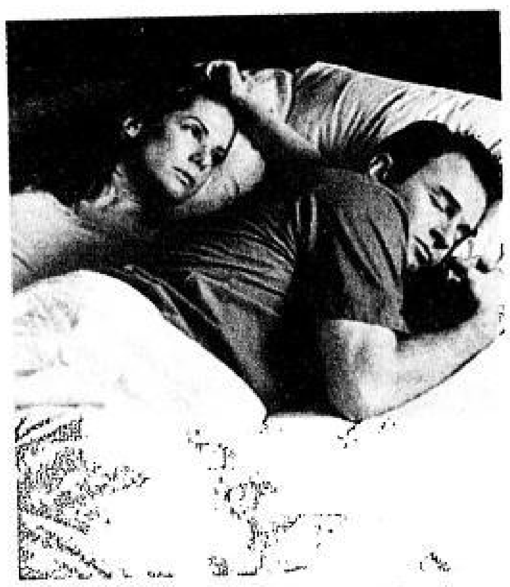
Multi-tasking, she said, was one other skill she picked up in New York. "I'm now doing different freelance production jobs. I document concerts in the New York-Brooklyn area. I collaborate with other artists. I also work as voice-over and on-cam talent," she said.

On top of all these, she is putting the finishing touches on "Graveyard," vowing she would have it screened "only when it's presentable."

Asked what she missed most about the Philippines, she enumerated: "My family, my home, the warm climate, the great beaches, the wildlife."

And the things she didn't miss? "Traffic, reckless driving and pollution."

WENDY MISA



SANDRA Bullock and Julian McMahon in "Premonition"

No foresight to present a good finale

REVIEW

LOS ANGELES—SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH the psychological thriller "Premonition" should have been clairvoyant enough to realize that when you don't have a good finale, it doesn't pay to substitute two bad endings.

Starring Sandra Bullock as a woman whose husband is killed in a car wreck one day but turns up alive and well the next, "Premonition" plays out too tranquilly in the early going to build much suspense.

The movie teases viewers with the promise of great twists or revelations, making the unsatisfying conclusion and epilogue all the more annoying. You're entitled to a decent payoff after sitting through a hushed, brooding tale of paranormal happenings, and "Premonition" simply does not deliver.

A shame

It's a shame, because Bullock is on screen virtually every moment of the movie and breathes far more soul into the role than her superficially written character merits.

Bullock stars as Linda Hanson, a passably contented housewife with two sweet daughters and a sturdy husband, Jim (Julian McMahon), with whom she shares an amiable if not terribly passionate marriage.

One day, while Jim's away on a business trip, the sheriff comes knocking, telling Linda that her husband died the day before in a traffic accident. Life sucks for the rest of the day as family and friends begin the grieving process.

The next morning, though, everything is back to normal, Jim sipping his morning coffee when Linda comes downstairs to the kitchen. The next day, she's a widow again, heading off to his funeral. The day after that, Jim's above ground again, and so on and so on.

Linda realizes she's somehow living the days of her devastating week out of order, with mysterious little signs and paradoxes creeping up to clue her in on where she's at and whether she can head off the pending tragedy.

Cheap license

Her strange behavior initially is chalked up to shock by her mother (Kate Nelligan) and best friend (Nia Long). Linda's inability to remember where the nasty scars came from on her oldest daughter's face prods her loved ones to call in a shrink (Peter Stormare) for fear she may be a danger to the kids.

Director Mennan Yapo and screenwriter Bill Kelly take cheap license with the story's internal logic, simply ignoring the chronology of events at times if it does not fit their aims.

Physical manifestations of events from the previous days Linda has yet to live would have had to be there at the opening of the story, which is day one from her perspective but objectively the middle of the tale.

But that would have tipped Linda — and the audience — that all is not right from the very beginning. Rather than thinking the story through better, the filmmakers just figure no one will notice enough to care. *AP*

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RAINN Wilson (right) with Steve Carell in "The Office"

Rainn Wilson: I try to be nice to my billions of fans

LOS ANGELES—HIS WORK as a mortician's apprentice got him noticed. His turn as eccentric paper salesman Dwight Schrute made him famous.

Now producers can't seem to get enough of actor Rainn Wilson. A star of NBC's Emmy-winning comedy "The Office," and an alumnus of HBO's hit drama "Six Feet Under," Wilson, 41, is being offered roles for the first time in his 14-year career.

The latest such role is as a normal science teacher in "The Last Mimzy," which opens Friday in the US.

TAKE FIVE

How has "The Office" changed your life?

I get recognized a lot. When you're an actor on a TV show that people love, and you play kind of a goofball, they instantly think that they're your best friend. I try to be nice to my billions and billions of fans. At the same time I like to keep my privacy going a little bit.

What is it about the show that has connected with so many people?

No matter how absurd the humor gets, it's believable and grounded and people identify with the characters.

"Six Feet Under" was like that, too.

I've been so lucky. I have been on two of the greatest shows.

How did you get involved with "The Last Mimzy"?

(Director) Bob Shaye sent me the script and offered me the role. I read it and I was deeply and genuinely moved by it.

Plus you get a chance to play a normal, hippie teacher.

There's a particular brand of West Coast—and particularly the Pacific Northwest—hippie. I call them healthy hippies. They go to the organic bakery and they have latte. My parents were hippies in Seattle. My name is Rainn. So it was all right there for me.

Are you still blogging as Dwight for "The Office"?

I owe them a blog. Thanks for reminding me.

AP

Ch 7's big risk: public affairs on prime time

By Nini Valera

GMA 7 IS SET TO CHANGE THE TREND IN early prime time TV programming, where soaps and fantasy series traditionally rule.

Tonight at 7, it will launch "Philippine Agenda," taking over the hour to be vacated by "Starstruck," whose final telecast will be aired later in the evening.

"Philippine Agenda" is a public affairs program to be hosted by Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco, Jessica Soho, Arnold Clavio and Vicky Morales.

Enriquez said the program was designed to present relevant information that would hopefully lead viewers to choose the right candidates come election day. He described the move to air such a show on early prime time as a "big risk" which, however, the network expects to pay off.

"It has never been done before on Philippine television," he said. "We hope [to start] a flame that would turn into a conflagration."

The show, Enriquez said, will veer away from featuring politicians and their credentials and campaign promises. Instead, he said, the show will focus on problems that have not been solved despite changes in government leadership and policies.

Getting it across

He said the network hoped televiewers would "get the point." Enriquez explained: "We have lost our sense of nation, of community. Corruption has become a way of life."

Co-anchor Tiangco will tackle housing. "It is almost impossible to acquire a decent low-cost house," she said, adding that relocation of squatter colonies was not the solution to the country's housing shortage. "You can't just uproot people and bring them to a place so far from their work," she stressed.

The other hosts will probe problems in the labor sector, the health care system and the education structure.

"We will present these problems to the viewers," Enriquez said. "It is up to them to find these solutions in the candidates they plan to vote for."

He wished for the program to rate, he said. "That would mean that the viewers are watching—and getting the point. This is really a big risk. But someone's got to start it."

DID YOU KNOW...

Entertainment highlights during the week of March 25-31:

1954: "From Here To Eternity" won the Best Picture award at the Oscars.

1960: Ray Charles recorded "Georgia On My Mind" in New York.

1979: Eric Clapton married Patti Boyd, the ex-wife of his friend, George Harrison. They separated in 1986.

1983: MTV added Michael Jackson's video for "Beat It." It was the first video MTV played by a black artist.

1986: Actor James Cagney died at his farm in Stanfordville, New York, at age 86.

1993: Actor Brandon Lee died after a freak accident on the set of the movie "The Crow." Lee had been shot with a prop gun that was supposed to fire blanks. He was 28.

1995: Rapper Eazy-E died of AIDS in Los Angeles at age 31.

1995: Singer Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam was rescued after a riptide carried him 250 feet (76 meters) offshore in New Zealand.

1996: Actor Clint Eastwood married newscaster Dina Ruiz.

2001: "Gladiator" won five Oscars, including Best Picture.

2003: Celine Dion launched her Las Vegas show "A New Day."

2006: Elvis Presley's Graceland was declared a national historic landmark.

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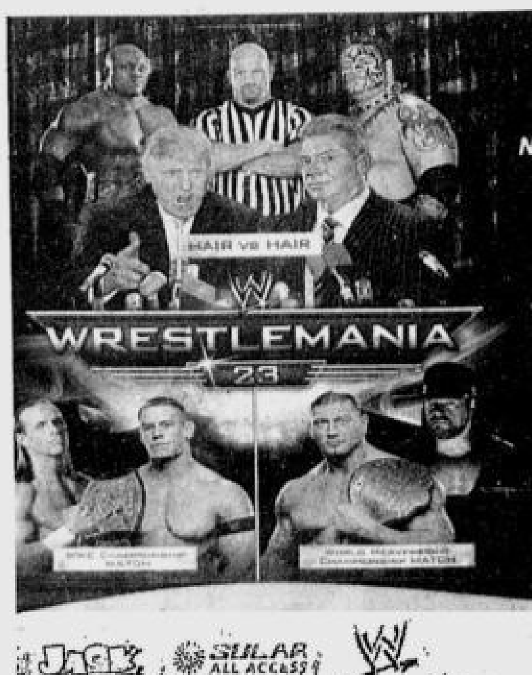

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3 TURISTAS	1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
4 300	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 PREMONITION	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO	1:05 3:15 5:25
7 ALPHA DOG	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
8 indieSine: ANAK ng TINAPA	1:30 3:05
SA AKING PAGKAGISING	5:20 7:25 9:30
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3 NORBIT	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 TURISTAS	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
5 ZOMBIES	12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 10:00
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3 NORBIT	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
4 ZOMBIES	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
5 PATHFINDER	12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00
6 BECAUSE I SAID SO	12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
7 TURISTAS	11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
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INSIDE

An interview with Hollywood's most famous Buddhist is never your usual Tinseltown prattle. Richard Gere discusses the Dalai Lama, condoms, and 'The Hoax'–with our man in LA. /L2

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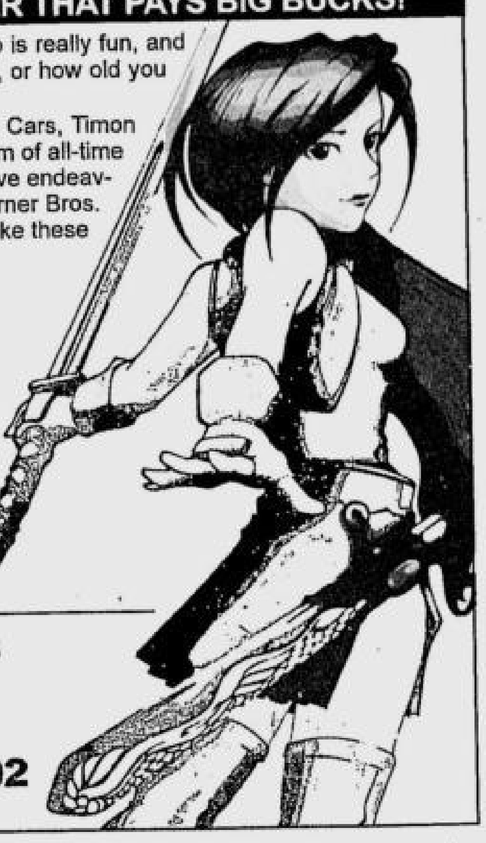

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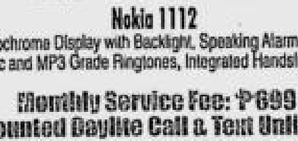

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Iconic 'Gigolo' discusses the Dalai Lama, condoms and a hoax

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LOS ANGELES—"IS THIS INTERESTING to anyone? You know, I get off on these things."

Richard Gere was talking about helping the "no condoms, no sex" campaign among sex workers in Dharamsala, India, seat of the Tibetan government in exile. Then he asked the reporters at this press con if he was not being a bore.

An interview with Hollywood's most famous Buddhist is never your usual Tinseltown prattle. Journalists inevitably ask him nonstandard questions about empowerment of women, spirituality, enlightenment and the **Dalai Lama**, who is the actor's friend and teacher. Mix those with the themes of Richard's new film, "The Hoax," about one of the biggest media scams in history, and you have one heady afternoon session at the Four Seasons.

Richard has been silver-haired for many years now, but still we are always a bit surprised to see him and his mane each time we interview him. The "American Gigolo," turning 58 this year, has comfortably made peace with his mature status, no doubt eased by daily meditation.

Asked what stage in **Bob Dylan's** life he is portraying in "I'm Not There: Suppositions on a Film Concerning Bob Dylan," a film freely interpreting the various phases in the legend's life, Richard laughingly teased the reporter who asked the question: "Well, obviously I play him as a 14-year-old. I play the old Bob Dylan, all right? Are you happy?" We all broke into laughter.

But Richard, who wore glasses and the ubiquitous Tibetan beads on his left wrist, will probably be the first to say he is not narcissism-free. At the beginning of our talk, he was chewing on Halls because he said he was getting over a bad case of flu. However, as the photographers snapped away, he paused midway in his reply to a question and said, "I don't think I'm going to like these photographs of me chewing on this (Halls). When I finish ... then you can take some pictures."

The request was made with a smile. He was that way throughout the press con—playful, trying not to sound "heavy" as he was asked, for example, about The Gere Foundation, which gives millions of dollars to Tibetan causes, AIDS work and human rights organizations and other groups.

In "The Hoax," which is based on a true story, Richard plays Clifford Irving, who almost got away with publishing a bogus autobiography of the reclusive billionaire, **Howard Hughes**. Oscar-nominated **Lasse Hallstrom** ("Cider House Rules," "Chocolat") directs the caper, which tells how Clifford, the big publishing firm McGraw-Hill, and the US were swept away by the potential of a tell-all from Hughes in the early '70s. The famous recluse insisted he never gave such interviews. **Marcia Gay Harden** portrays the wife of Clifford.

Below are excerpts of our interview with the political activist, once dubbed the "World's Sexiest Man" and has photos from the '70s and '80s to prove it, especially those iconic images taken of him by the late **Herb Ritts**. The ex of **Cindy Crawford** has been married to actress **Carey Lowell** since 2002. They have a son, **Homer James Jigme**, 7. He has a teenage stepdaughter, **Hannah**, Carey's daughter with actor **Griffin Dunne**.

Maybe you should run for president.

On the list of things I want to do in my life, that's down here somewhere (he lowered a hand to demonstrate that it's in the bottom of his list of priorities).

You play a novelist in the film. If you had a year and a half off, would you write a book?

I would not be doing that. There are so many things to be done in the world. My life is kind of divided into thirds. First, there's my career, which I care very much about. It's a great job. Another third of my life is my foundation and the (volunteer) work that I do. The best third is my family, without a doubt. If something doesn't fit into that structure I'm already committed to, I am not going to do it. It's one of the reasons I haven't directed a film yet.

You talked about the empowerment of women earlier. Do you practice that in your own family?

My wife runs the household, for sure. I have quickly learned to defer to her. We laughingly call it rope-a-dope. **Muhammad Ali** came up with it. I think it was in a fight with **Joe Frazier**. He couldn't out-punch Joe. So what he did was, he covered himself up (Richard shielded his torso the way a boxer would protect himself from an opponent's blows). He went up against the ropes. He just let Joe hit him over and over again. But he didn't give an opening. Finally, Joe just got tired. He dropped his arms and walked away. Then Ali came out and pooomp, knocked him out. I rope-a-dope with my wife. I just let her pummel away [till she] gets tired. Finally, I'll get my way.

What do you teach your son?

My son is a perfect joy. He's a jewel. He's very much into baseball now. We're having a great time learning to play baseball. He's totally into the Yankees. We're at a point where it's possible to mentor your child. He's not a baby anymore. He wants to learn a skill or take instruction from me. It has been a wonderful time for me to teach him how to get the correct stance, how to use the glove and how to throw properly. Probably the biggest bonding experience we're having is around baseball.

You're a multi-faceted man. How do you think your kids see you?

I'm just the dad they don't pay any attention to. It's the same as anybody else. I have a teenage daughter who couldn't care less about me. To my seven-year-old, I'm the guy he plays baseball with. It's just like any other household.

How about your wife? Is she also involved in your foundation work?

Last year, my wife took time off to come to Washington with me for the first time and share the work that I've been doing there for years. She also went to India with me to do the work there. We had an incredible event in Mumbai (Bombay) with 15,000 sex workers. It was a rally to give them a sense of community and also to get them to commit to use condoms. Is this interesting to anyone? You know, I get off on these things. If, as a sex worker, I refuse to have sex with someone without a condom, there's going to be someone down the road who's going to say, "I need the money. I'll do it without the condom." A sense of community was needed to make them realize that it's important for them to get regular health checkups and to be a family, absolutely united in using condoms every time.

We had a rally of 15,000 people who were choreographed into these Bollywood numbers. We had Bollywood singers and dancers. They brought their kids with them and their signifi-

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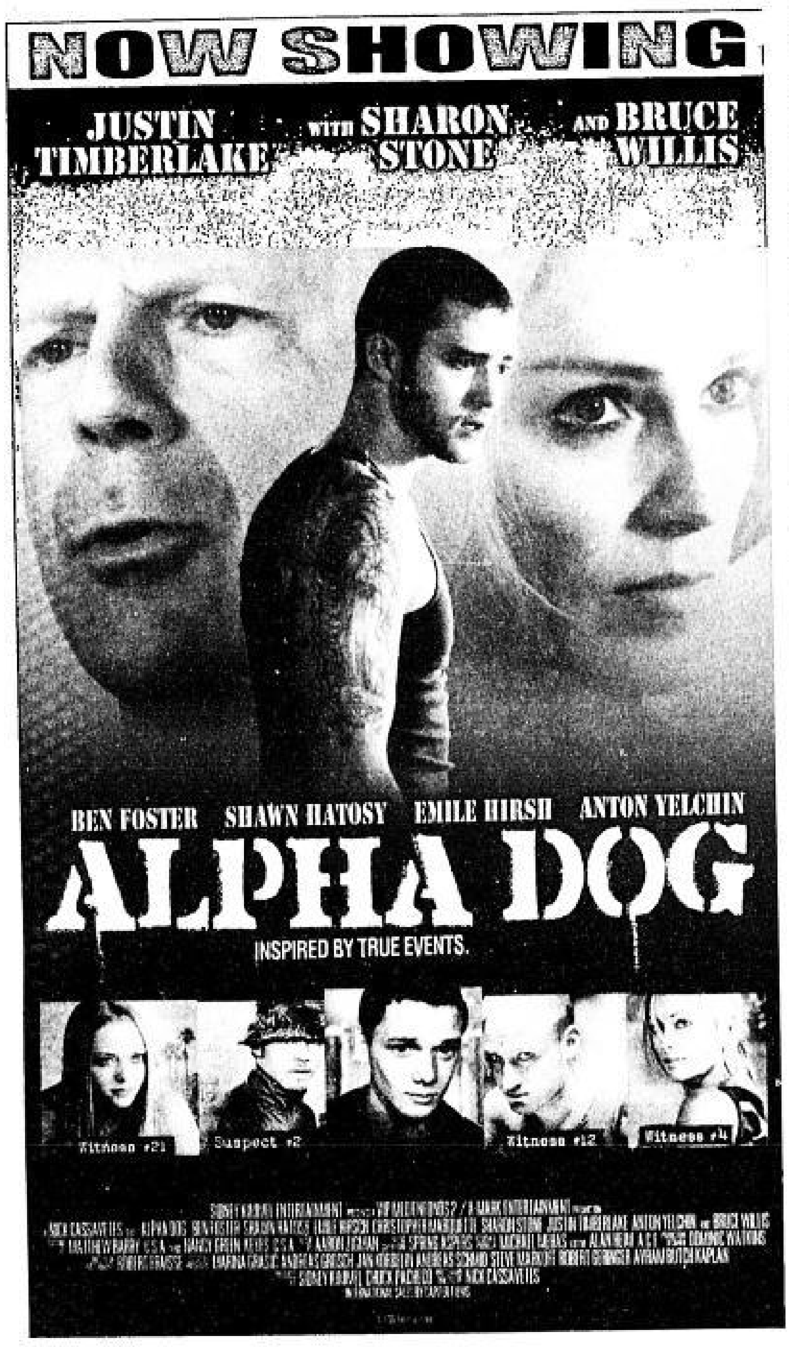

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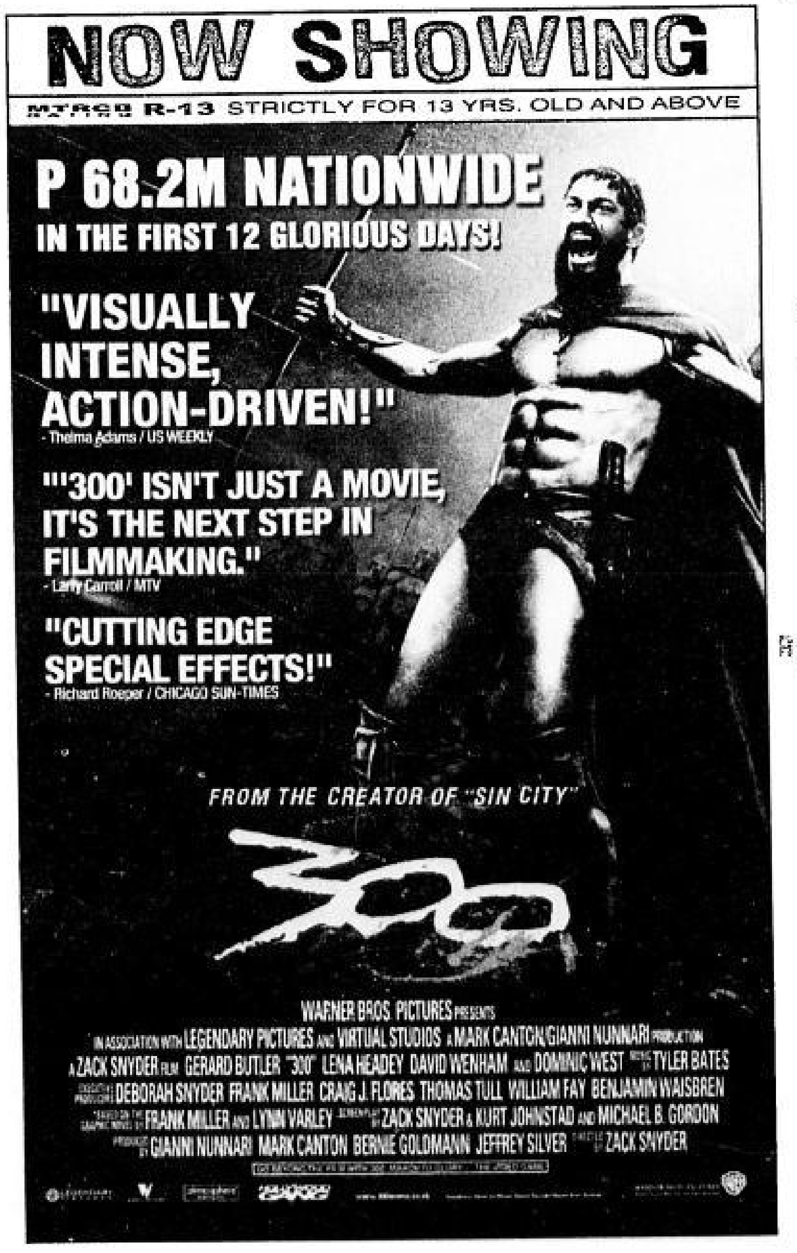

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conic 'Gigolo' iscusses . . .

om page L2

nt others. We started chanting, "No con-
oms, no sex; no condoms, no sex." It was
e of the most emotional moments I've ev-
had in my work in the foundation. These
e people who never had a sense of com-
unity, no one cared about them whatsoev-
. In that moment, they cared about each
her. That's a huge leap. The ripple effect
om that is mammoth. That has nothing to
with me. They did it themselves.

agine if you had done that in the be-
nning of your career, chanting, "No
ndoms, no sex?"

But I remember a scene in the hotel in
retty Woman." We said we can't be doing
is scene where a guy would just do it with
hooker. We've got to deal with the con-
m issue. (Director) **Garry Marshall** said,
et's make it funny." He (Richard's charac-
) has to pick the color [of the condom].
she (**Julia Roberts**' character) was like,
you want a blue, pink or red? That was
e first time on film someone had actually
id, "Okay, that's what you do—you are a
oker, you have a condom."

u play Bob Dylan in the coming film
nbodying different stages in the rock
gend's life. What is your take on Bob Dylan?

My very best friend **Jonathan Cott** has written three books on Dylan. He was in the first editorial staff of Rolling Stone magazine, so he's been there the whole time of Dylan's career. We constantly talk about Dylan. In my mind, there has been no one who has affected our lives on this planet more than Bob Dylan. As a revolutionary and an artist, there was no one more powerful in our time. Now I could say in deeper ways, the Dalai Lama has a greater influence. But in terms of culture, no one has had a greater influence in my world than Bob Dylan. I'm sure that other cultures have their equivalents to Bob Dylan.

What do you think of the test findings that say when a person is in an enlightened state, when he is meditating, his brain changes?

First of all, I'm not enlightened. On my side, the science that they're doing now is such kindergarten science. It's the beginning of finding the language for western science to talk to eastern science, finding the common denominator which is quite low. From an eastern point of view, they don't need a machine to tell them that there are changes in their brains when they meditate. They know that through experience. From a western point of view, they have to see it on the machine and the graph. It isn't enough to feel, I'm definitely a different person after I meditate.

Can you relate to Clifford Irving and other people who would do anything to be famous?

I don't know if that was Clifford's drive. I think he was a deeper person than that. He had much to prove. There was something still very boyish about him. I don't think he had become a man yet. I think he had a very strong feeling that he was a better writer than he was being acknowledged.

Do you think you've reached that stage where you think of yourself as a man in the deeper context of that word? What is being a man to you?

I'm getting there. I don't know if I have achieved it yet. It's being responsible. It's saying, this is who I am. It's a degree of honesty about yourself with all of your problems, mistakes and shortcomings. I think that becomes easier to do when you have a real feeling of interconnectedness. Look, I'm not that bad. I may have felt that way my whole life that I was... but if I really look outside of myself, everyone goes through the same things. From a Buddhist point of view, all creatures—insects, human beings, higher primates—everybody has the same (drive). You have a drive toward happiness, whatever your definition of happiness is, and away from suffering and getting hurt. All of our actions can be

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DAVAO DEL NORTE

ITEM 14 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 1,800 sqm. F. A.: 327 sqm.
Lot 2529 Purok 2, Roxas Ave., Poblacion New Corella
Market Value 564,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 423,000.00

ITEM 15 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,800 sqm.
Lot 1864 Magsaysay Ave., Purok 5, New Corella
Market Value: 70,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 56,000.00

ITEM 16 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,300 sqm.
Lot 1918 Magsaysay Ave., Pob. New Corella, Davao Del Norte
Market Value: 80,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00

ITEM 17 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 338 sqm. F. A.: 69 sqm.
Lot 1089-B-5-D-5-E Purok 6, Pob. New Corella
Market Value: 206,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 165,000.00

ITEM 18 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 774 sqm. F. A.: 314 sqm.
Lot 1090-B-2-C-5-A & 1090-B-2-6-B Romualdez Extn. St. New Corella
Market Value: 550,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 440,000.00

ITEM 19 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1865 Magsay-Say Ave. Purok 5 New Corella
Market Value: 80,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00

ITEM 20 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 2112 Fr. Gomez St., Poblacion, New Corella
Market Value: 70,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 56,000.00

ITEM 21 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 707 sqm.
Lot 2526, Along Nig St., New Corella
Market Value. 57,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 46,000.00

ITEM 22 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,412 sqm.
Lots 2292 & 2291 Bonifacio St. Pob New Corella
Market Value. 92,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 74,000.00

ITEM 023 - Agricultural Lot
L. A.: 20,891 sqm.
Purok 18, Brgy Cuambugan, Mosaoy
Market Value. 313,365.00
Minimum Bid Price . 412,500.00

ITEM 25 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 250 sqm. F. A.: 48 sqm.
Lot 6441-C-5-D-5-M-1 Purok 3, Dunan Vill., San Miguel, Tagum City
Market Value 299,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 224,000.00

ITEM 26 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 759 sqm. F. A.: 271 sqm.
Lot 586-D-5 Bermudez Subd Apokon, Tagum City
Market Value 992,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 843,000.00

ITEM 27 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 170 sqm. F. A.: 177 sqm.
Lot 7-B-2-A Purok Malinawon, Zafra Subd., Briz Dist., Tagum City
Market Value. 618,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 464,000.00

ITEM 28 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 344 sqm. F. A.: 286 sqm.
Lot 406-G-2-B-3-B-3-B-1-A Purok Durian, Seminary Drive, Tagum City
Market Value 884,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 663,000.00

ITEM 29 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 1,004 sqm. F. A.: 75 sqm.
Lots 4488-D-1 & 4488-D-2 Purok 1, Rizal, Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value. 555,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 416,000.00

ITEM 30 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 708-6 Mango I-B, Purok Bayanihan, Visayan Vill., Tagum City
Market Value 700,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 525,000.00

ITEM 31 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 58 Narzal Con-Concepcion Subd. Upr La Union, Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value 86,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 69,000.00

ITEM 32 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 1,100 sqm.
Lot 498-F-4-C-4-B-1 Gaolo Rd. 3, Tagum City
Market Value: 770,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 616,000.00

ITEM 33 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 485 sqm.
Lot 387-G-15 D. Mencidor Subd., Tipaz, Tagum City
Market Value. 170,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 102,000.00

ITEM 34 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 515 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 129,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 103,000.00

ITEM 35 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
L3 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value. 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

ITEM 36 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
L4 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value. 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 100,000.00

ITEM 37 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
L5 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value. 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 100,000.00

ITEM 38 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 500 sqm.
L9 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 100,000.00

ITEM 39 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 514 sqm.
L2 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 129,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 103,000.00

ITEM 40 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
L6 B6 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 100,000.00

ITEM 41 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
L7 B6 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 100,000.00

ITEM 42 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 517 sqm.
L14 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan, Tagum City
Market Value: 129,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 103,000.00

ITEM 43 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 209 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 10 Purok 09, Horjem Subd., La Filipina, Tagum City
Market Value: 73,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 44 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 425 sqm.
Lot 15 Brgy Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value: 68,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 54,000.00

ITEM 45 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 425 sqm.
Lot 16 Brgy Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value: 68,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 54,000.00

ITEM 46 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 425 sqm.
Lot 11 Brgy Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value: 68,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 54,000.00

ITEM 47 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 459 sqm.
Lot 10 Brgy Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value 80,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 64,000.00

ITEM 48 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 308 sqm.
Lot 9 Brgy Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value 54,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 43,000.00

ITEM 49 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 35 Brgy. Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 58,000.00

ITEM 50 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 34 Brgy. Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 51 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 450 sqm.
Lot 73 Narzal Concepcion Subd., Mankilam, Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 52 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 74 Narzal Concepcion Subd., Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 58,000.00

ITEM 53 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 448 sqm.
Lot 77 Narzal Concepcion Subd., Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 78,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 62,000.00

ITEM 54 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 76 Narzal Concepcion Subd., Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 58,000.00

ITEM 55 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 448 sqm.
Lot 78 Narzal Concepcion Subd, Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 78,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 62,000.00

ITEM 56 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 75 Narzal Concepcion Subd., Mankilam Tagum City
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 58,000.00

DAVAO DEL SUR

ITEM 057 - Residential Lots
L. A.: 2,619 sqm.
Cabantian, Buhangin
Market Value. 1,309,500.00
Minimum Bid Price 209,520.00

ITEM 58 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 10,092 sqm.
Lot 945-B, Sitio Escuela Bula, Catalunan Grande, Talomo District, Davao City
Market Value: 606,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 424,000.00

ITEM 59 - LOT W/MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 4,800 sqm.
Lot 536-A-2 Interior Tigatto Buhangin District Davao City
Market Value. 2,880,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,584,000.00

ITEM 60 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 245 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 3 Ninundayan Homes, Dumoy, Toril, Davao City
Market Value: 417,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 396,000.00

ITEM 61 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 134 sqm.
Lot 5 No 83 Buhangin Road, Buhangin Dist., Davao City
Market Value 535,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 402,000.00

ITEM 62 - LOT W/MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 28 Interior Indangan, Buhangin Dist., Davao City
Market Value: 125,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 94,000.00

ITEM 063 - Commercial Lot w/ 3-storey bldg
L. A.: 5,090 sqm.
Lot B-2 Home Essentials, J.P. Laurel Ave.
Market Value 49,144,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 41,400,000.00

ITEM 064 - Vacant Residential/ Industrial lot
L. A.: 9,200 sqm.
Lot 16 Int. Pareñas St., Diversion Rd. Km 8, Bo Cabantian, Buhangin
Market Value: 5,520,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,910,000.00

ITEM 065 - Agricultural Lot
L. A.: 9,200 sqm.
16 Interior Pareñas St., Diversion Road, Km 8 Buhangin
Market Value: 6,617,240.00
Minimum Bid Price 3,910,000.00

ITEM 66 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 10,000 sqm.
Lot 2-A Trese De Mayo, Digos City
Market Value: 2,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,600,000.00

ITEM 67 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 726 sqm. F. A.: 386 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 6 Del Pilar St. Digos City
Market Value 1,623,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,380,000.00

ITEM 68 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 4,940 sqm.
Lot 12-G-9-F Subd. Road, Cagape Subd., San Jose, Digos City
Market Value. 2,470,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,976,000.00

ITEM 69 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 198 sqm.
Lot 17 Blk. 7 Ruparan, Digos City
Market Value 39,600.00
Minimum Bid Price 32,000.00

ITEM 70 - AGRILAND
L. A.: 49,891 sqm.
Lot 2154, Cad 275 Pilong Galang, Sinawilan
Market Value 499,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 368,000.00

ITEM 71 - LOT WITH MINOR IMPVT.
L. A.: 1,295 sqm.
Lot 5777-I-10 Poblacion Sulop
Market Value 459,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 367,000.00

DAVAO ORIENTAL

ITEM 72 - AGRILAND
L. A.: 10,000 sqm.
Lot 3470-B, Psd-11-001623 Bo. Bagsak, Banaybanay
Market Value: 240,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 180,000.00

ITEM 73 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 1,039 sqm. F. A.: 153 sqm.
Lot 5 Brgy Poso, Banay-Banay
Market Value. 719,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 575,000.00

ITEM 74 - AGRILAND
L. A.: 42,008 sqm.
Lot 2435-A Brgy. Ilangay, Lupon
Market Value 840,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 672,000.00

ITEM 75 - AGRILAND
L. A.: 50,000 sqm.
Lot 2515-B Brgy. Ilangay, Lupon
Market Value: 1,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 700,000.00

ITEM 76 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 2,231 sqm. F. A.: 293 sqm.
Lot No. 1 Gomora St. Pob., Lupon
Market Value. 1,991,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 1,593,000.00

ITEM 77 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 790 sqm.
Lot 1575-A Along National Highway, San Ignacio Manay
Market Value: 218,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 185,000.00

ITEM 78 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 288 sqm.
Lot 281-C Dalo St. Pob Manay
Market Value 346,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 311,000.00

ITEM 79 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 15,781 sqm.
Lot 464 Lawigan, Mati
Market Value: 71,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 46,000.00

ITEM 80 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 378 sqm.
L1 Blk 2 Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 113,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 85,000.00

ITEM 81 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 2,821 sqm.
Lot D-4-B Interco Drive, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 762,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 572,000.00

ITEM 82 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 886 sqm.
Lot-2-D-7-1 Madang, Bo Of Central Mati
Market Value: 443,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 355,000.00

ITEM 83 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 524 sqm. F. A.: 532 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk.14 Sto Nino Poblacion Mati
Market Value 4,019,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 2,612,000.00

ITEM 84 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 1,551 sqm.
Lot 5424 5324-A & 5364-H Lower Apayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 453,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 362,000.00

ITEM 85 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 486 sqm.
Lot 1777-J Lower Apayas Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 131,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 105,000.00

ITEM 86 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 179 sqm. F. A. 148 sqm.
Lot 3814-I-3 Along Don S. Garcia St. Upper Salazar, Mati
Market Value 346,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 311,000.00

ITEM 87 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 221 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 14 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao Mati
Market Value 55,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 44,000.00

ITEM 88 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 499 sqm.
Lot 1777-H Road Lot 1777-T Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 135,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 108,000.00

ITEM 89 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 499 sqm.
Lot 1777-G Road Lot 1777-F Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 135,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 108,000.00

ITEM 90 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 216 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 14 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 54,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 43,000.00

ITEM 91 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 2,104 sqm.
Lot 4-L-2-I Adjacent To Lopez Village Subd., Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 531,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 442,000.00

ITEM 92 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 240 sqm. F. A.: 173 sqm.
Lot 18 & 19 Blk 3 Camia St., Don Luis Village, Madang, Mati
Market Value: 557,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 418,000.00

ITEM 93 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 448 sqm.
Lot D-7-G Purok Malambo-On, Interior Interco Drive Matiao
Market Value. 99,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 79,000.00

ITEM 94 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 499 sqm.
Lot 1777-J Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 115,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 98,000.00

ITEM 95 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 499 sqm.
Lot 1777-B Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 150,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

ITEM 96 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 449 sqm.
Lot 5369-A Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 135,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 115,000.00

ITEM 97 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 292 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 16 Sibala Village Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 82,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 70,000.00

ITEM 98 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 399 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 38 Madang, Bo Of Central Mati
Market Value: 259,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 220,000.00

ITEM 99 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 464 sqm.
Lot 600-B-2-G-1 Interior Dalcor Road, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 211,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 137,000.00

ITEM 100 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 1-B & D Upper Kapayas, Don Martin Marundan, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 1,312,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 984,000.00

ITEM 101 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 223 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 12 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao Mati
Market Value 56,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 45,000.00

ITEM 102 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 1777-D Lower Kapayas Matiao Mati
Market Value: 150,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 120,000.00

ITEM 103 - LOT W/IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 1,000 sqm.
Lot 595-B-25 Rizal St Limaloc, Mati
Market Value 1,417,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,275,000.00

ITEM 104 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 600 sqm.
Lot 5312-E Interior Lot W/O Row Purok Pakikisama, Pohamulang Road, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 120,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 66,000.00

ITEM 105 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 238 sqm.
Lot 2-D-7-G Subd. Rd. Madang, Mati
Market Value: 119,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 95,000.00

ITEM 106 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 300 sqm.
Lot 303-C-6-C Lemente Village Calagundian, Mati
Market Value: 120,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 120,000.00

ITEM 107 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 4 Madang, Bo Of Central Mati
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 65,000.00

ITEM 108 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 5 Jasmin St., Don Luis Vill., Mati
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 58,000.00

ITEM 109 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 18 Blk 5 Jasmin St., Don Luis Vill., Mati
Market Value: 72,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 58,000.00

ITEM 110 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 6 Road Lot A, Don Luis Vill., Mati
Market Value 66,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 53,000.00

ITEM 111 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 29 Blk 8 Camia St., Don Luis Vill., Mati
Market Value 73,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 58,000.00

ITEM 112 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 292 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 35 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value. 161,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 129,000.00

ITEM 113 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 282 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 35 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value. 169,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 135,000.00

ITEM 114 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 349 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 29 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value 209,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 178,000.00

ITEM 115 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A. 542 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 27 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value: 217,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 174,000.00

ITEM 116 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 448 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 32 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value. 246,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 209,000.00

ITEM 117 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L. A.: 433 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 26 Madang, Bo. Of Central Mati
Market Value. 397,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 318,000.00

ITEM 118 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 281 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 12 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 75,870.00
Minimum Bid Price : 65,000.00

ITEM 119 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 269 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 12 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 72,630.00
Minimum Bid Price : 62,000.00

ITEM 120 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 805 sqm.
Lot 1776-C-2-B-2-E Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 242,000.00
Minimum Bid Price : 206,000.00

ITEM 121 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 545 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 163,500.00
Minimum Bid Price : 139,000.00

ITEM 122 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 579 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 2 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 173,700.00
Minimum Bid Price 148,000.00

ITEM 123 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 380 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk.1 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 114,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 97,000.00

ITEM 124 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 336 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk.1 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 100,800.00
Minimum Bid Price : 86,000.00

ITEM 125 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 336 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk.1 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value: 100,800.00
Minimum Bid Price : 86,000.00

ITEM 126 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 285 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 8 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 71,250.00
Minimum Bid Price : 61,000.00

ITEM 127 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 231 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk.8 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 57,750.00
Minimum Bid Price : 49,000.00

ITEM 128 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 238 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk.8 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 59,500.00
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

ITEM 129 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 419 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk.8 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 104,750.00
Minimum Bid Price 89,000.00

ITEM 130 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 268 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 5 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 66,500.00
Minimum Bid Price . 57,000.00

ITEM 131 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 219 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 52,500.00
Minimum Bid Price 45,000.00

ITEM 132 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 210 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 5 Sibala Village, Lower Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 52,500.00
Minimum Bid Price . 45,000.00

ITEM 133 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 852 sqm.
Lot 634-E Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value. 128,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 109,000.00

ITEM 134 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 300 sqm.
Lot 634-A-5 Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 60,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

ITEM 135 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 634-A-6 Kapayas Matiao Mati
Market Value. 60,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 51,000.00

ITEM 136 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 300 sqm.
Lot 634-A-7 Kapayas Matiao, Mati
Market Value 60,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

ITEM 137 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 300 sqm.
Lot 634-A-8 Kapayas Matiao, Mati
Market Value 60,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 51,000.00

ITEM 138 - VACANT LOT
L. A. 300 sqm.
Lot 634-A-9 Kapayas Matiao, Mati
Market Value 60,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

ITEM 139 - VACANT LOT
L. A.: 299 sqm.
Lot 634-A-10 Kapayas, Matiao, Mati
Market Value 59,800.00
Minimum Bid Price 51,000.00

ITEM 0140 - agricultural lot
L. A.: 50,000 sqm.
Don Lusido Rabat Ave. Magapo
Market Value 15,000,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 11,250,000.00

ITEM 0141 - commercial lot w/ 2-storey, commercial bldg
L. A.: 312 sqm.
F. A.: 2-storey Bldg. 206.79 (G/F) 184.19 (2/F) sqm.
Lot 71 Corner Mabini-Burgos Sts. Central Mati
Market Value: 2,351,784.00
Minimum Bid Price : 1,840,000.00

ITEM 0142 - residential lots
L. A. 500 sqm.
Lot B Unnamed Road Lot, Espino Subd, Bo Dumoy, Davao City
Market Value. 500,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

ITEM 0143 - residential lots
L. A. 500 sqm.
Lot C Unnamed Road Lot, Espino Subd, Bo Dumoy, Davao City
Market Value 500,000.00
Minimum Bid Price . 400,000.00

ITEM 0144 - residential lots
L. A. 500 sqm.
Lot D Unnamed Road Lot, Espino Subd, Bo Dumoy, Davao City
Market Value 500,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 400,000.00

ITEM 0145 - Commercial Lot w/ 2-storey, Comm'l Bldg
L. A.: 312 sqm.
71 Cor Mabini-Burgos Sts., Central Mati
Market Value 936,000.00
Minimum Bid Price 1,840,000.00

SULTAN KUDARAT

ITEM 0146 - Adjacent Lot
L. A. 250 sqm.
17 Proposed Inlong Subd Near Belsario Subd, Inlong
Market Value: 176,100.00
Minimum Bid Price . 240,000.00

ITEM 0147 - Adjacent Lot
L. A. 250 sqm.
18 Proposed Inlong Subd Near Belsario Subd, Inlong
Market Value. 176,100.00
Minimum Bid Price 240,000.00

ITEM 0148 - Adjacent Lot
L. A. 250 sqm.
19 Proposed Inlong Subd Near Belsario Subd, Inlong
Market Value. 176,100.00
Minimum Bid Price . 240,000.00

✓UPTO 35% ON DISCOUNTS
✓INTEREST RATES AS LOW AS 10%
✓PAYMENT TERMS UPTO 10 YEARS
✓10% DOWN PAYMENT FOR LOTS
✓25% DOWN PAYMENT FOR DEVELOPED PROPERTIES
✓DEPOSIT PHP 25,000.00 CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK
(NO DEPOSIT NO PARTICIPATION)
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(ITR, CERT OF EMPLOYMENT, BANK STATEMENT, ETC.)

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	Locals	Cell #
JOEY	2919	0921-7112238
JAY-R	4538	0917-8878431
VON	7212	0920-6701586

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CRIS (0918-3193341) & MACOT (0919-4612012)
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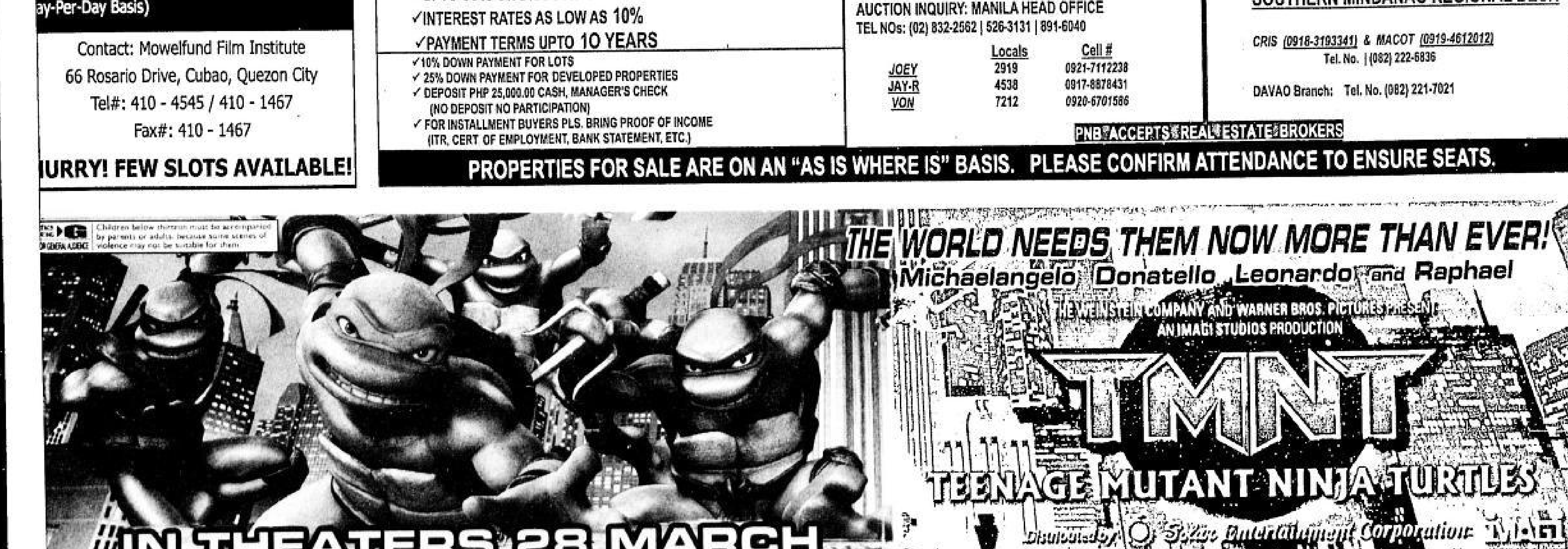

PG
THE WORLD NEEDS THEM NOW MORE THAN EVER!
Michaelangelo Donatello Leonardo and Raphael
THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENT
AN IMAGI STUDIOS PRODUCTION
TMNT
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES
IN THEATERS 28 MARCH
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
IMAGI

Iconic 'Gigolo' discusses the Dalai Lama…

From page L3

explained by the cause and effect of that. To surrender to that knowledge leads you to a sense of maturity and responsibility, to be honest with yourself and with everyone else.

Since fidelity—or the lack of it—is one of the elements in this movie, what is your take on fidelity?

A Canadian named **Russell Hoban** wrote a book called "The Medusa Frequency" that I liked a lot. There's a love affair in it. The woman is talking to the guy and she says, look, I trust you with the idea of me—which is a wise statement. We are a little more than the idea of ourselves. My real self is outside of the boundaries of definition. So it's the idea, the concept. I trust you with the idea of me, which is because I'm not enlightened, I'm very invested with. That's what we all basically do. We

ICONIC/ L5

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 PREMONITION
2 300
3 NORBIT
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
PREMIERE
TURISTAS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 ZOMBIES
3 ALPHA DOG

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 300
2 MUSIC & LYRICS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 NUMBER 23
2 MONAY NI SHOOLI
3 IT'S A BOY GIRL THING
4 HAPPY HEARTS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 300
2 PREMONITION
3 NORBIT
4 TURISTAS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 PREMONITION
2 300
3 NORBIT
4 TURISTAS

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150
3 PREMONITION
4 MONAY NI SHOLI
5 RESRVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 8433994
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PATHFINDER
3 TURISTAS
4 300

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 DEAD PEOPLE-2
3 300
4

THEATRES
Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No. (044) 600 3025
1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 EPIC MOVIE
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 THE HITCHER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 HAPPY HEARTS
2 NUMBER 23
3 GHOST RIDER
4 PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 ZOMBIES
2 APHA DOG
3 TURISTAS
4 PATHFINDER
5 PREMONITION
6 300
7 NORBIT
8 BECAUSE I SAID SO
9 MONAY NI SHOOLI
10 HAPPY HEARTS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 300
2 HAPPY HEARTS
3 FLUSHED AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 DEAD PEOPLE - 2
2 HAPPY HEARTS

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PEEP SHOW

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341937
1 300
2 TURISTAS
3 PREMONITION
"PACQUIAO VS' SOLIS" APRIL 15, 2007

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 THE HITCHER
2 SHE WALK BY NIGHT
3 NAGBABAGANG LANGIT
4 MONAY NI SHOLI

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 DEAD PEOPLE-2
2 HUNGER FOR LOVE
3 MONAY NI SHOLI
4 FIRST TIME
5 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 PATHFINDER
2 TURISTAS
3 MONAY NI SHOLI
4 300
5 PREMONITION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 DEAD PEOPLE-2
3 HAPPY HEARTS
4 EPIC MOVIE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 MONAY NI SHOOLI
2 PATHFINDER
3 YOU GOT ME
4 ASK THE DUSK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 MONAY NI SHOLI
2 OBSESSION

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 PREMONITION
MTRCB PG-13
12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
2 300
MTRCB: R-13
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
3 NORBIT
MTRCB PG-13
12.20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10.00
4 BECAUSE I SAID SO
MTRCB PG-13
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE TURISTAS MTRCB R-13
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
Catch EXILED - Nominee, BEST MOVIE in the 1ST ASIAN FILM AWARDS
EXCLUSIVELY SHOWING at the SHANG CINEPLEX
from MARCH 28 to APRIL 4, 2007!!!
Directed by Johnnie To - Nominee, Best Director
MTRCB R-18
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EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
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Shangri-La Plaza

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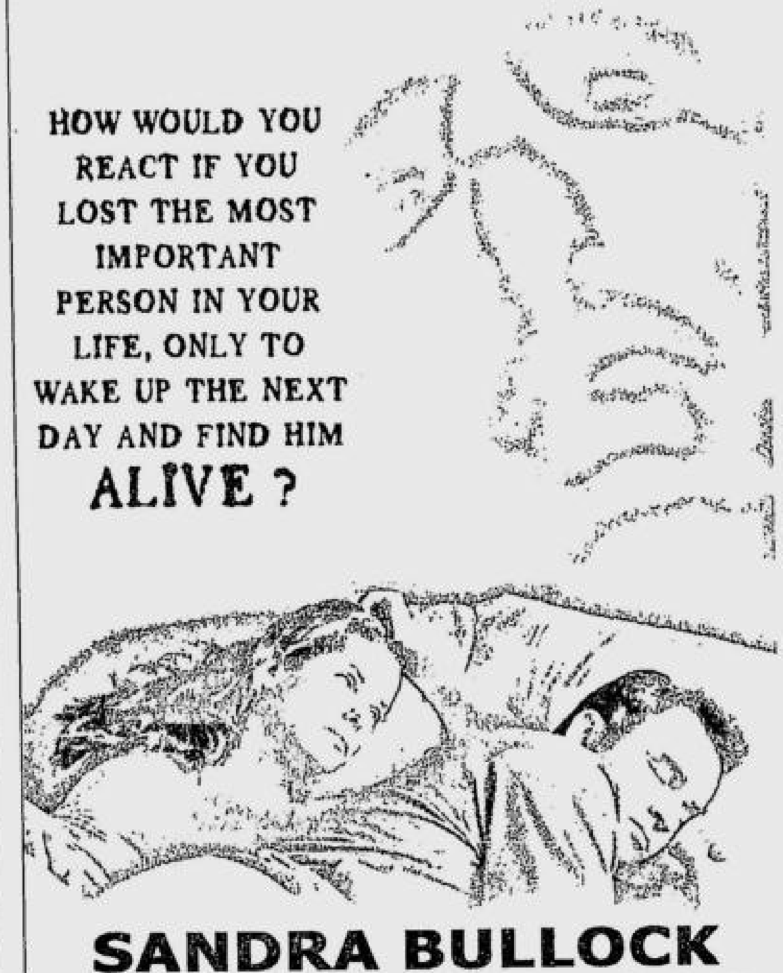
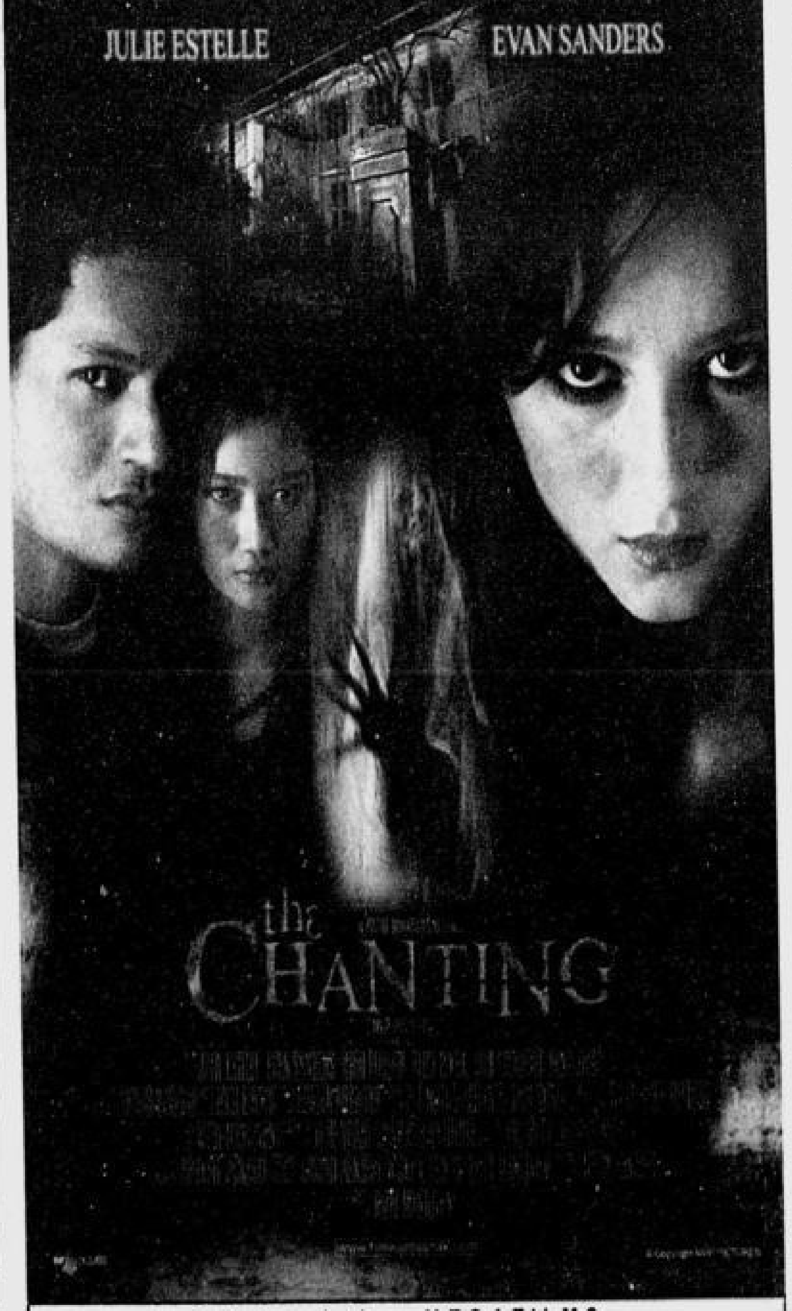


HOW WOULD YOU REACT IF YOU LOST THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR LIFE, ONLY TO WAKE UP THE NEXT DAY AND FIND HIM ALIVE ?
SANDRA BULLOCK
PREMONITION

CHANTING begins on MARCH 28
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult



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Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
To received Eastwood City Events, Promos & Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 PREMONITION
1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
PG 13
2 300
12:15, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:10
R 13
3 NORBIT
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG 13
4 TURISTAS
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00
R 13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

TURISTAS R13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25	PREMONITION PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	DREAMGIRLS PG13 12:40,3:20 BECAUSE I SAID SO PG13 6:00,8:10,10:20
300 R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30	ALPHA DOG R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:25	NORBIT PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

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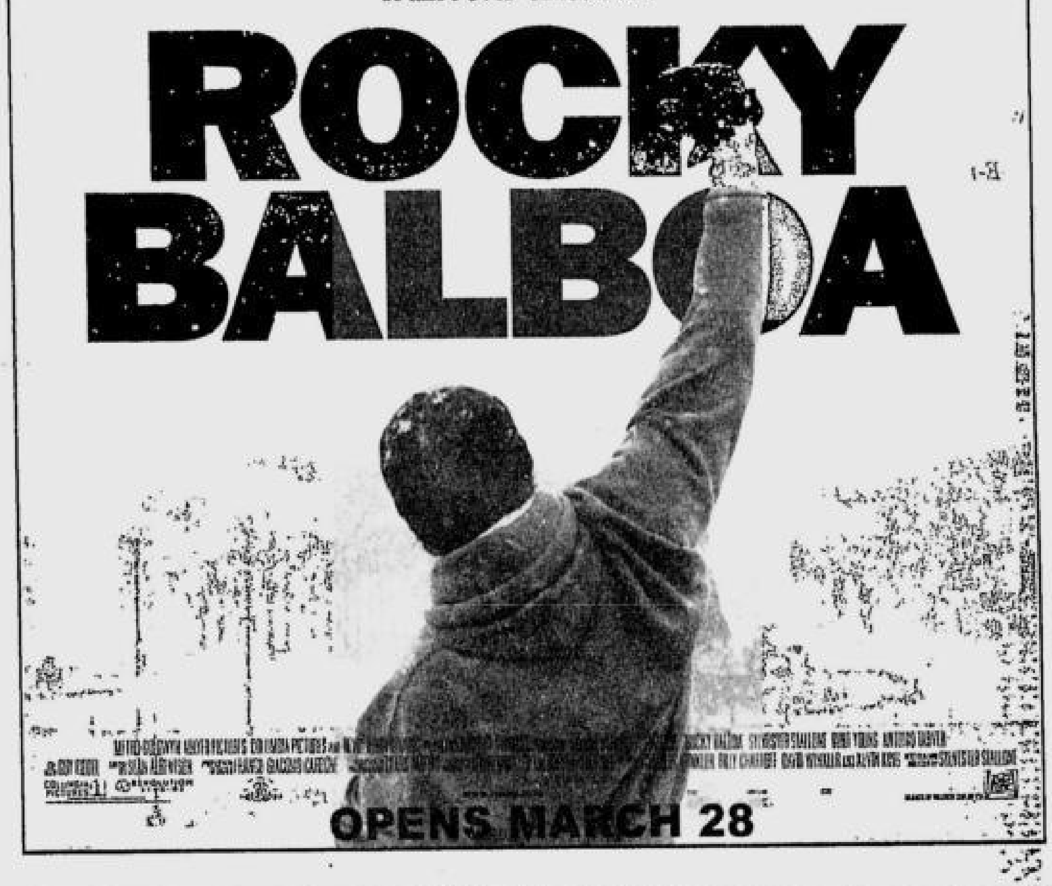
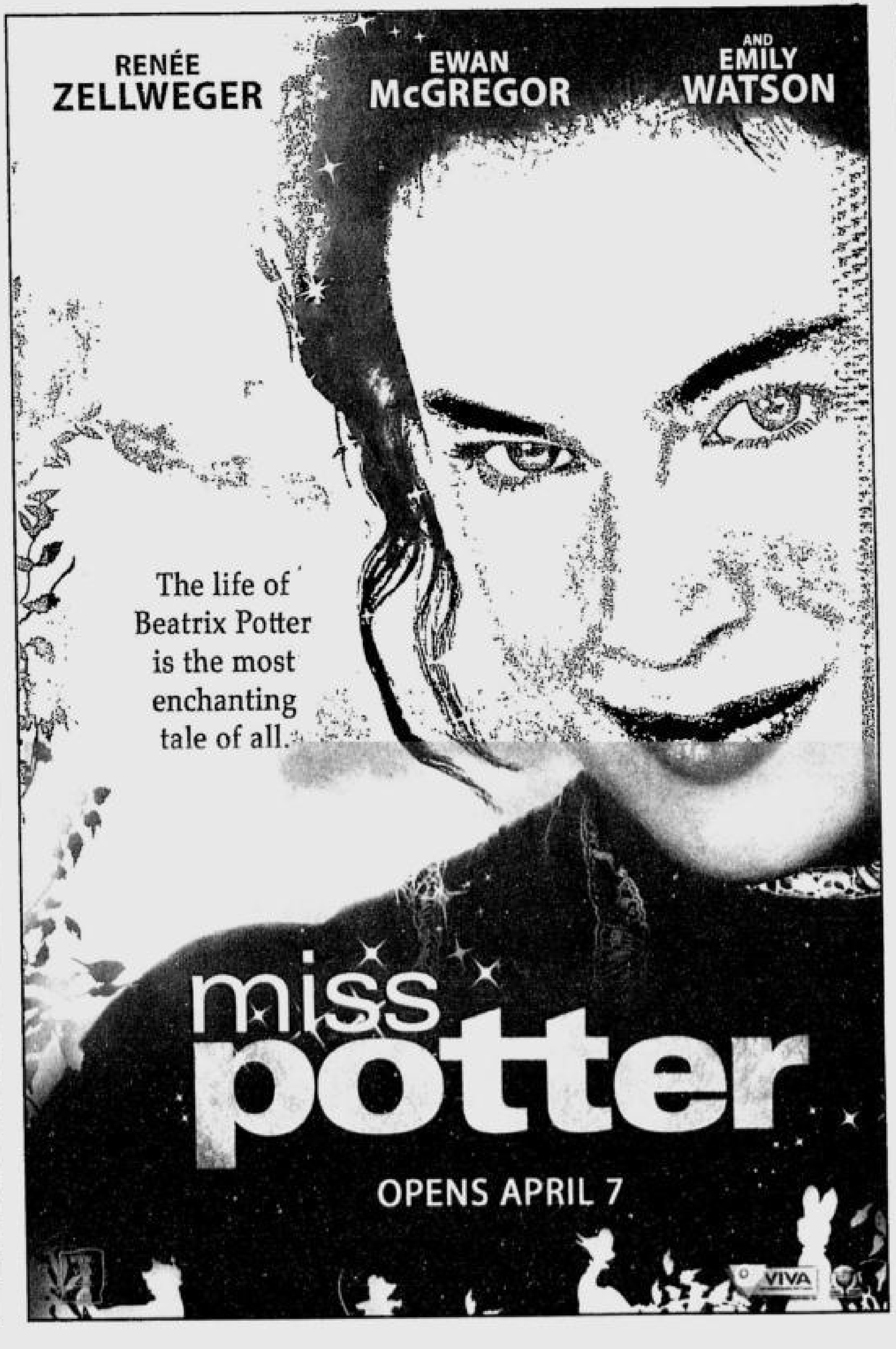
It ain't over 'til it's over.



OPENS MARCH 28



'My life is divided into thirds. There's my career, my foundation and the best third—my family'

WITH co-star Julie Delpy in "The Hoax"

From page L4

trust you with my self vision, my idea of myself. That takes a lot of courage.

"The Hoax" is essentially about one big lie. How do you deal with lies?

I remember a moment in Dharamsala, India, where the Dalai Lama and the exile government of Tibet are. There's no doubt that the Dalai Lama has some degree of clairvoyance. I was talking to his sister-in-law, who is quite an extraordinary woman. We were talking about the people who come to see him and lie to him. On some level, they know that he knows they're lying. But they do it anyhow. That's a really peculiar thing.

We have two ways of hearing each other. We listen to our words as we talk. Then we have this other, more powerful, unconscious way of hearing each other, which is through our hearts. I think every time we lie, it hurts our hearts because the other person knows we're lying.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE.

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EDWARD BURNS JOHN LEGUIZAMO MATTHEW LILLARD
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AN EDWARD BURNS FILM
THE GROOMSMEN
TILL DEATH DO WE PARTY

OPENS MARCH 28

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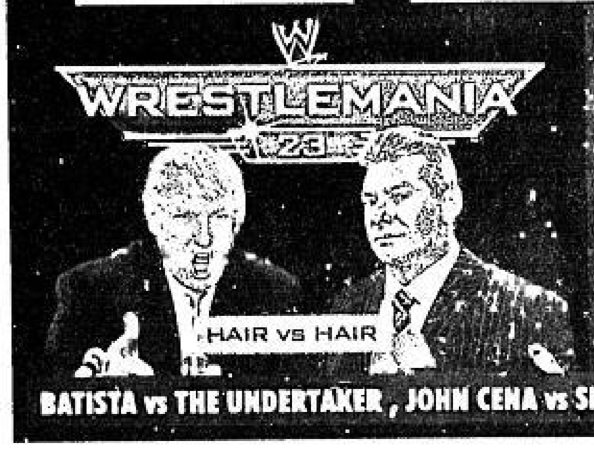
Gateway CinePLEX*10
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

NORBIT 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	TURISTAS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	PREMONITION 11:30 / 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
ALPHA DOG 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	MONAY NI MR SHOOLI 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	ZOMBIES 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30	
300 2:00 / 4:40 / 7:20 / 10:00	PATHFINDER 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	BECAUSE I SAID SO 12:10 / 5:00 / 9:50 DREAMGIRLS 2:20 / 7:10	NORBIT 1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 8:55

Ali MALL 5

1 ZOMBIES 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	2 TURISTAS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	3 ALPHA DOG 1:20 / 3:50 / 6:20 / 8:50
4 PREMONITION 1:20 / 3:50 / 6:20 / 8:50	5 300 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
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BATISTA vs THE UNDERTAKER, JOHN CENA vs SHAWN MICHAELS AND MANY MORE!

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls Love mall!

AT THE CINEMAS

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 TURISTAS	2 NORBIT	3 ALPHA DOG	4 ZOMBIES
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 TURISTAS	2 DREAMGIRLS	3 THX 300 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 BREAKING & ENTERING	5 BECAUSE I SAID SO	6 NORBIT	7 PREMONITION
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 300	2 NORBIT		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX 300 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX NORBIT GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 BREAKING & ENTERING GUARANTEED SEATS	4 PREMONITION GUARANTEED SEATS	5 TURISTAS GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX NORBIT GUARANTEED SEATS	2 TURISTAS		
	3 300	4 ALPHA DOG	5 PREMONITION	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 DREAMGIRLS	2 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS	3 300	4 BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 NORBIT	2 PREMONITION		
	3 MONAY NI SHOLI	4 ZOMBIES	5 TURISTAS	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Hip Summer Sale at the Activity Center March 2 to 25, 2007	Sony Summer Pleasure Exhibit March 19 to 25, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
For event inquiries, pls. call (032) 231-5342 loc. 332	Automatic Center: Gadgets Exhibit April 9 to 22, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Lila Almario
March 7 to 18, 2007

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents GAY BIRDS
at REP's Globe Theater - March 16 to April 1, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — Registration Ongoing for Summer Art Workshops at Ayala Museum
For more information, please call
Charis Olveros at 757-7117 to 21 local 29

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BREAKING *and* ENTERING
Love is no ordinary crime.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13

Buena Vista International
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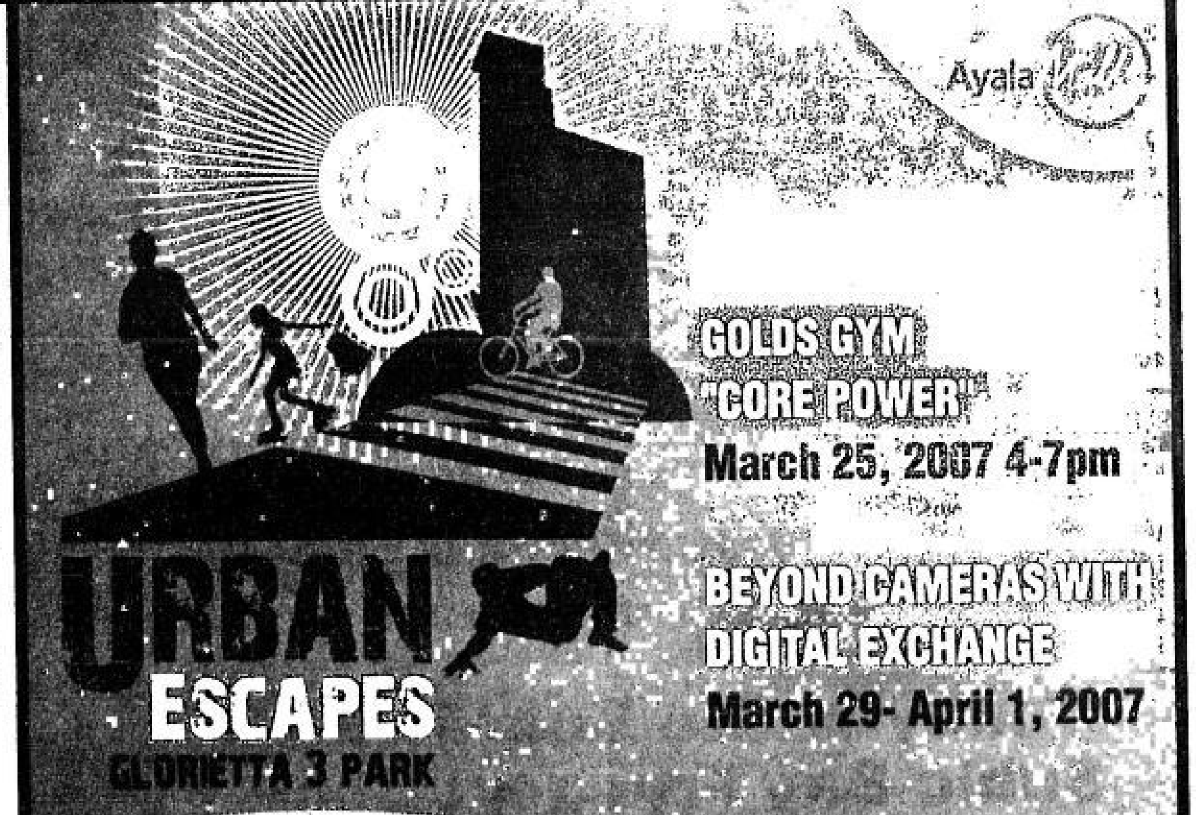

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GLORIETTA 3 PARK

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"CORE POWER"
March 25, 2007 4-7pm

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March 29- April 1, 2007

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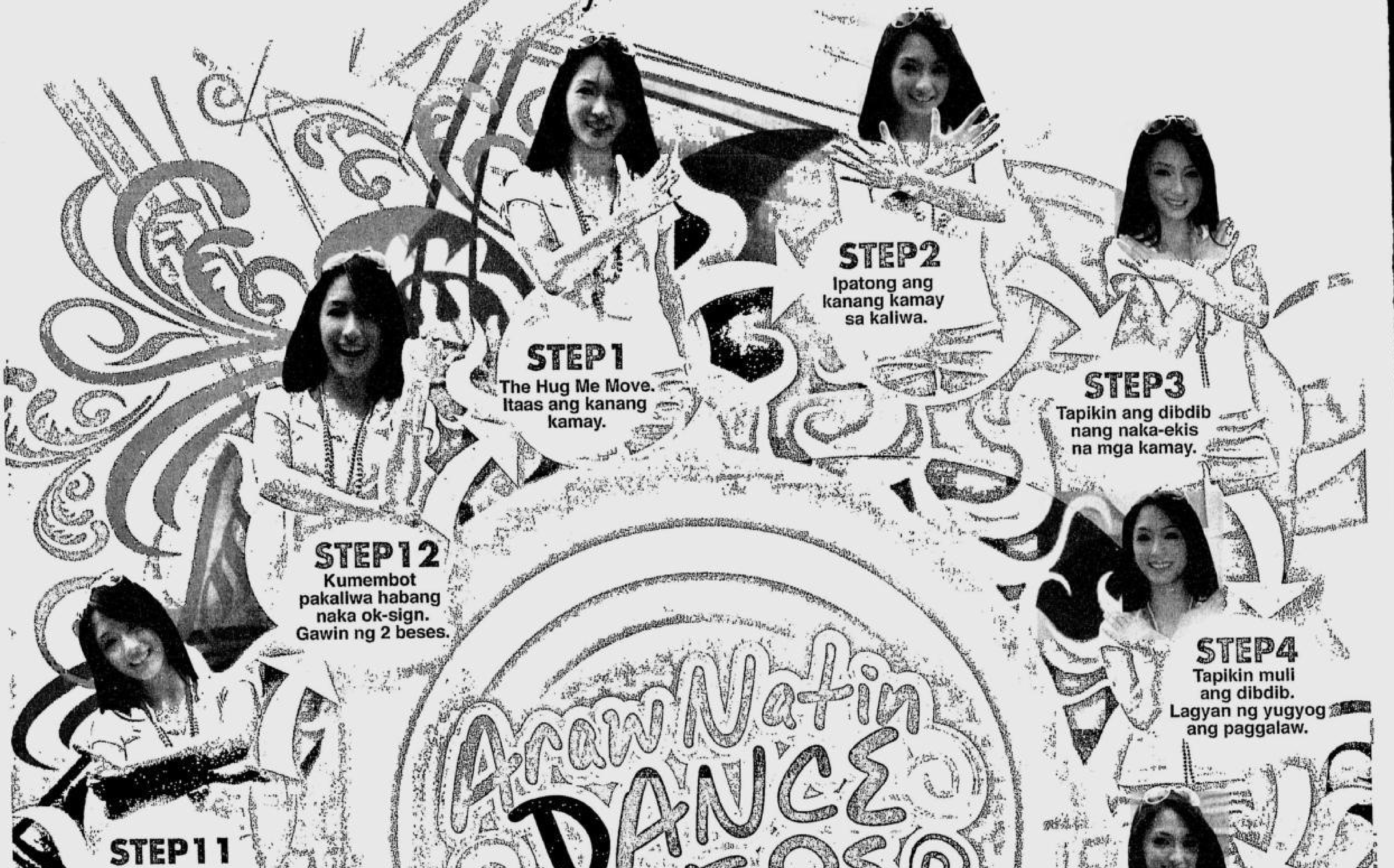
glorietta

Araw Nat'in 'To!

Salubungin ang summer ng saya. Igalaw ang mga kamay, bewang at paa. Yumugyog nang parang walang nanonood. Ngayong araw, kahit ano kakayanin mo dahil Kapamilya, Araw Natin To!



STEP1
The Hug Me Move. Itaas ang kanang kamay.

STEP2
Ipatong ang kanang kamay sa kaliwa.

STEP3
Tapikin ang dibdib nang naka-ekis na mga kamay.

STEP4
Tapikin muli ang dibdib. Lagyan ng yugyog ang paggalaw.

STEP5
Ipuwesto ang mga kamay sa iyong bewang.

STEP6
Tapikin ang sexy waist mo! Ulitin ang pagtapik ng 2 beses.

STEP7
The Ok-Sway Move. Do the ok sign sa kanang kamay.

STEP8
Ipatong ang kanang kamay sa kaliwa.

STEP9
Kumembot pakanan habang naka ok-sign. Gawin ng 2 beses ang pag-sway.

STEP10
I-ok sign ang kaliwang kamay.

STEP11
Ipatong ang kaliwang kamay sa kanan.

STEP12
Kumembot pakaliwa habang naka ok-sign. Gawin ng 2 beses.

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M1

IATSS FORUM

SUZUKA INTERNATIONAL FORUM

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 43rd and 44th IATSS FORUM

The Philippine National Committee for the International Association of Traffic and Safety Sciences (IATSS) Forum is now accepting applications for the 43rd and 44th IATSS Forums to be held in Suzuka, Japan from April to June and September to November 2008.

The Forum aims to provide the participants from ASEAN countries with a broader perspective and understanding of the role of science, technology and culture of Japan and the developments in ASEAN countries.

The IATSS Forum is open for Filipino men and women who are not more than thirty five (35) years of age at the time of application. They may come from any executive or administrative branch of government with at least 2 years professional experience and are involved in policy formulation and planning work, or they may come from the academic and private sectors. Applicants from any field of activity/specialization are welcome.

Interested applicants may apply to:

Undersecretary Fortunato T. de la Peña, Chairman
IATSS Forum Philippine National Committee
c/o Department of Science and Technology
General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City

or please contact Ms. Corly Canilao, Secretariat, at telefax no. 837-2945 or send your inquiries at **ftdp@dost.gov.ph** or **corly@dost.gov.ph** or visit: **http://www.iatssforum.jp/english/index.html**, for the IATSS Forum website and for the downloadable application form.

Deadline for Submission of Application: April 30, 2007

Invitation for Bid

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM SOCIAL FUND PROJECT
Regional Strategic Infrastructure (SRI) Component:
Loan No. 7153PH

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the World Bank toward the cost of ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP), and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for Regional Strategic Infrastructure (SRI) Component;
2. The ARMM Social Fund Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the project described below :

   Subproject Title : **Construction of Regional Teachers Training Center**
   Subproject Code : **SRI –MAG-TCF-001**
   Location : **Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao**
   Completion of the works required : **312 Calendar days.**
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in these Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification;
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *ASFP-Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00AM to 5:00PM on *March 26 to April 4, 2007;*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Five Thousand (PHP 5,000.00) Pesos . The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on *March 26 to April 4, 2007;*
6. The *ASFP-BAC* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Bidders at *4th floor CYMCI Building (Land Bank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City; on April 12, 2007*, 10:00 AM.
7. Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *May 7, 2007.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check , Bank Draft or irrevocable Letter of Credit in an amount of at least one percent (1%) of his total bid price or a Bank Guarantee in an amount of one and a half percent (1.5%) of his total bid price.* Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *May 7, 2007*, 10:00AM, at, *4th floor CYMCI Building (Land Bank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00AM on May 7, 2007;
8. The *ARMM Social Fund Project-Bids and Awards Committee (ASF-BAC)* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ARMM Social Fund Project
(Sgd.) ATTY. MUSTAPHA A. SAMBOLAWAN
Project Manager
4th floor CYM Building(LandBank), Don Rufino Alonzo Street, Cotabato City.
Tele-Fax (064) 421-1128
E-mail:asfp@pldtdsl.net
Website: asfp.org.ph

(Sgd.) **ENGR. GUIALOSON A. MAMOGKAT, MPS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – March 24 & 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following companies previously placed under conservatorship and/or receivership for cause by the Insurance Commission, are now due for liquidation, namely:

Insurance Company	Name & Address of Liquidator
1. Nicphil Insurance, Inc.	Ms. Teresita T. Endriga U. 1010 Annapolis Wilshire Plaza #11 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan
2. The Capital Insurance & Surety Co., Inc.	Atty. Rolando Villacorta Unit 1710 Cityland 10 Tower I H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
3. Filipino Merchants Insurance Co., Inc.	Atty. John Apatan c/o Insurance Commission 1071 United Nations Avenue Ermita, Manila
4. Luzon Insurance & Surety Co., Inc.	Ms. Nelia Villacorta-Carlos 360 W. Burke St., Binondo, Manila
5. Mega Pacific Insurance Corporation	Mr. Rufino H. Abad Unit 2401 Antel 2000, 121 Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City
6. Times Surety & Insurance Co., Inc.	Mr. Rufino H. Abad 102 Alfaro St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
7. Zenith Insurance Corporation	Mr. Rufino H. Abad 102 Alfaro St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Parties having claims against these companies are hereby notified to file their claims under oath not later than May 31, 2007, together with all supporting documents and/or relevant proofs detailing the character, basis and amount of each and every claim, directly with the appointed Liquidator either personally or by mail, for consideration in their liquidation, pursuant to pertinent provisions of the Insurance Code, as amended. CLAIMS NOT FILED ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2007 ARE BARRED FOREVER AND SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICPATE IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER IN ANY KIND OF DISPOSITION, PARTITION, DISTRIBUTION OR SETTLEMENT/PAYMENT IN THE LIQUIDATION PROCEEDING AGAINST THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INSURANCE COMPANIES.

EVANGELINE CRISOSTOMO ESCOBILLO
Insurance Commissioner

(PDI – Mar. 25; April 1, 8 & 15, 2007)

ASIATRUST Bank

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Tel. Nos.: 924-5772 or 0917-4730557

Look for: Mel Ferrer or Abby Email Add: ecferrer@asiatrustbank.com

- 1-residential townhouse unit located @ Lot 2 Blk. 11 Villa De Calamba Subd., De Calamba Subd., Bo. Bucal, Calamba, Laguna w/ total lot area of 65 sq.m., floor area of 95 sq.m. & w/ selling price of P1.036M.
- 1-office condo unit located @ Unit No. 202 Upper Ground Floor, Parc Chateau corner Onyx & Ganet Sts., Ortigas Complex, Pasig City w/ floor area of 128.62 sq.m. & selling price of P7.3M w/ parking slot.
- 4-stry commercial bldg. located in a highly commercialized area, Lot 213-A East corner Lino Barrera & Turingan St., Poblacion, Santiago City, Isabela w/ total lot area of 531 sq.m., flr. area of 1,850 sq.m. & w/ selling price of P27.2M.
- 4-stry townhouse unit located @ Lot 222-D No. 651 Jose Abad Santos St., Brgy. Little Baguio, San Juan, Metro Manila with total lot area of 62.12 sq.m. floor area of 187.50 sq.m. & with selling price of P6M.
- Vacant Lot located @ Amore Ville Subd., Saluysoy Drive, Brgy. De Ocampo, Trece Martirez City w/ total lot area of 147,203 sq.m. & selling price of P6.5M (Ideal for subdivision)
- Pres. Magsaysay Road (Provincial Road leading to Biak na Bato shrine) located @ Brgy. Pulong Bayabas & Pacalag, San Miguel, Bulacan with total lot area of 775,961 sq.m. & selling price of P50M (Ideal for subdivision)
- Vacant Industrial Lot located @ Lot 17 Blk. 1 New York corner Boston, Meycauayan, Bulacan w/ total lot area of 3,335 sq.m. & selling price of P14M (Ideal for warehouse & plant)
- 2-stry Ofce Warehouse Bldg. located @ 9th St., Between 9th and 10th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City LA=487.50 sq.m. FA=820 sq.m. Selling Price of P12.0M
- Highly commercialized 2 vacant lots located near St. Joseph, Jollibee, Residenza Subd., Pag-ibig City with lot area of 4,341 sq.m. & 3,434 sq.m. @ P7,000 per sq.m.
- Office Condominium Unit with 2 parking slots located @ Unit 1403, 139 Corporate Center, 139 Valero St., Makati City with total floor area of 190 sq.m. & selling price of P12.850M
- Residential Condo located @ Unit 9-A Phase 2 Green Valley Village, Green Valley Road, Baguio City with floor area of 100.25 sq.m. & selling price of P2.1M

ALL PRICES ARE STILL NEGOTIABLE WITH EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS, LOW DOWN PAYMENT @ 20%

(PDI – March 25 & April 1, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Capiz
MUNICIPALITY OF TAPAZ

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date : **March 25, 2007**
Contract No. **SP-128-IN-01**
World Bank Loan No.: **4446 PH**

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of Level III Water Supply and Sanitation Project.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Tapaz, Capiz*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Development of ground water through drilled deepwells, provision of pump station, storage reservoir and treatment facilities, laying of new transmission and distribution facilities, installation of service connections/meters and other miscellaneous items included in the Bill of Quantities.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting **March 26-April 25, 2007** at ***Office of the Bids and Awards Committee, Tapaz, Capiz*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Six Thousand Pesos (Php6,000.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of ***Four Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Pesos (Php 436,000.00)*** in a form of **bank guarantee** or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the Bids and Awards Committee, Tapaz, Capiz*** on or before ***10:00 A.M., April 25, 2007*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post qualification. **The Estimated Project Cost** for the subproject is ***Seventeen Million Five Hundred Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Eight Pesos and 24/100 Pesos (17,519,898.24).***
6. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***10:00 A.M. on April 11, 2007*** at the ***Mayor's Office Conference Room, Tapaz, Capiz.***

(Sgd.) **EDILBERTO F. LEGARIO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–March 25, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 Email: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit Security Appliance/Firewall

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through a UK Grant intends to apply the sum of *P400,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative. Prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents for the failed bidding of March 6, 2007 are no longer required to pay anew the non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 for the bid documents.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *April 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on April 17, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *April 17, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Persons - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. - (632) 455-2758
Mobile Phone - (0928) 4102732
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - March 18 & 25, 2007)

WANTED

Rotogravure Printing Operator

Qualifications:
- with 2 yrs. experience
- age not exceeding 40 years old

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Office of the President

NOTICE OF SALE

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	SELLING PRICE	REMARKS
1	Basement, First BF Lifeman Condominium, Intramuros, Manila	Condominium	1,566.82 sq.m.		53,428,287.00	vacant
2	GF Unit 105, First BF Lifeman Condominium, Intramuros, Manila	Condominium	338.26 sq.m.		21,952,876.00	vacant
3	Unit 705 First BF Lifeman Condominium, Intramuros, Manila	Condominium	172.80 sq.m.		9,560,226.50	vacant
4	Unit 707 First BF Lifeman Condominium, Intramuros, Manila	Condominium	182.97 sq.m.		9,028,910.00	vacant
5	Blk. 24 Lot 17, BF Martinville, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		495 sq.m.	980,100.00	illegally occupied
6	Blk. 25 Lot 01, BF Martinville, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		602 sq.m.	1,523,500.00	illegally occupied
7	Blk. 24 Lot 11, BF Martinville, Las Piñas City	Lot Only		530 sq.m.	1,049,400.00	illegally occupied

FOR INTERESTED PARTIES, PLEASE CALL HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION AT 896-04-25, 897-31-49 OR VISIT OUR HEAD OFFICE AT JADE BLDG. NO. 335 SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

(SGD) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS
VICE PRESIDENT
ASSET MANAGEMENT
and DISPOSITION GROUP

(PDI–March 25, 2007)

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LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts. Malate, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH** and **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS:**

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	10 Com'l lots – TA: 18,078.40 sqm	San Miguel District, Manila	P258,720,000.00
2.	1 Com'l lot – 2,022 sqm	Commercial Ave. cor Road Lots 8 & 11 Asean & Singapura Drive Filinvest Corp. City, Brgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City	P105,144,000.00
3.	1 Com'l lot - 1,689 sqm	Finance St. cor Industry St. Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	P91,200,000.00
4.	1 Res'l lot – 400 sqm	Road Lot 27-H Uding's Cmpd, West Service Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	P3,200,000.00
5.	Unit 1G Insula Grandeur Mansion	#8 Ace St., Capitol Hills Golf Subd. Old Balara, Q.C.	P5,100,000.00
6.	1 Ind'l lot – 8,812.50 sqm	Brgy. Bangkal, Carmona, Cavite	P17,492,000.00
7.	1 Ind'l lot – 7,764.50 sqm	Brgy. Bangkal, Carmona, Cavite	P15,412,000.00
8.	3 Ind'l lots w/ imprvts TA: 4,076 sqm	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P14,225,000.00
9.	1 Agri lot – 15,178 sqm	San Felix, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	P8,348,000.00
10.	1 Res'l lot 967-E– 89,070 sqm	Brgy. Binutucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P6,703,000.00
11.	1 Res'l lot 967-B– 43,132 sqm	Brgy. Binutucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P4,848,000.00
12.	1 Res'l Lot 967-A-37,240 sqm	Brgy. Binutucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P3,513,000.00
13.	1 Res'l Lot 967-C-11,883 sqm	Brgy. Binutucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P1,295,000.00
14.	1 Res'l lot 967-D-1,674 sqm	Brgy. Binutucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P188,000.00
15.	B1 L1 - 2,870 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P2,296,000.00
16.	B1 L2 - 1,737 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P747,000.00
17.	B1 L4 - 354 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P188,000.00
18.	B2 L1 - 332 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P176,000.00
19.	B2 L2 - 82 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P39,000.00
20.	B2 L3 - 111 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P47,000.00
21.	B2 L5 - 325 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P140,000.00
22.	B2 L6 - 302 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P130,000.00
23.	B2 L8 - 306 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P163,000.00
24.	B2 L9 - 379 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P179,000.00
25.	B2 L10 312 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P135,000.00
26.	B3 L1 - 345 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P166,000.00
27.	B3 L2 - 353 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P166,000.00
28.	B3 L3 - 368 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P173,000.00
29.	B3 L4 - 368 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P196,000.00
30.	B4 L2 - 178 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P75,000.00
31.	B4 L5 - 331 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P156,000.00
32.	B4 L6 - 321 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P135,000.00
33.	B4 L7 - 306 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P129,000.00
34.	B4 L8 - 317 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P134,000.00
35.	B5 L1 - 638 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P339,000.00
36.	B5 L3 - 150 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P80,000.00
37.	B5 L5 - 75 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P33,000.00
38.	B6 L2 - 84 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P37,000.00
39.	B6 L3 - 101 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P43,000.00
40.	B6 L4 - 150 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P71,000.00
41.	B6 L5 - 330 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P139,000.00
42.	B6 L6 - 334 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P141,000.00
43.	B6 L8 - 291 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P123,000.00
44.	B6 L9 - 307 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P129,000.00
45.	B6 L10 - 312 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P132,000.00
46.	B7 L2 - 338 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P146,000.00
47.	B7 L3 - 344 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P145,000.00
48.	B7 L6 - 298 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P126,000.00
49.	B7 L7 - 339 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P143,000.00
50.	B7 L8 - 178 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P75,000.00
51.	B7 L9 - 150 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P63,000.00
52.	B8 L1 - 1,241 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P683,000.00
53.	B8 L4 - 314 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P148,000.00
54.	B9 L4 - 304 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P171,000.00
55.	B9 L5 - 303 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P131,000.00
56.	B9 L6 - 309 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P174,000.00
57.	B9 L7 - 312 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P135,000.00
58.	B9 L8 - 315 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P177,000.00
59.	B9 L9 - 590 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P254,000.00
60.	B9 L10 - 117 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P65,000.00
61.	B9 L11 - 471 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P264,000.00
62.	B9 L12 - 324 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P140,000.00
63.	B9 L15 - 314 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P176,000.00
64.	B9 L16 - 319 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P138,000.00
65.	B9 L17 - 337 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P189,000.00
66.	B1 L3 - 174 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P82,000.00
67.	B10 L6 - 91 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P43,000.00
68.	B10 L9 - 59 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P28,000.00
69.	B10 L10 - 67 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P32,000.00
70.	B10 L11 - 73 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P35,000.00
71.	B10 L12 - 64 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P31,000.00
72.	B10 L13 - 59 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P28,000.00
73.	B10 L14 - 61 sqm res'l lot	Labangan, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	P29,000.00
74.	Scrap materials from warehouse bldg.	Brgy. Binuntucan, Pontevedra, Capiz	P50,000.00
75.	1 lot sewing machines	LBP Warehouse, Mambugan, Antipolo City	P20,000.00
76.	3 units Blowing Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P45,000.00/unit
77.	1 unit Metro Gold Blowing Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P30,000.00
78.	2 units Metro Gold Straw Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P30,000.00
79.	1 unit Sando Bag Cutting Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P8,000.00
80.	4 units Sealing & Cutting machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P8,000.00/unit
81.	2 units Sealing & Cutting Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P15,000.00/unit
82.	2 units Heat Cutting Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P30,000.00
83.	5 units Inflation Machine	Bo. Perez, Meycauayan, Bulacan	P150,000.00
84.	Scrap materials from feedmill bldg	San Felix, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	P241,500.00

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received at the Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila not later than **April 11, 2007 at 12:00 noon**.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00 for item nos. 1-73 and P1,000.00 for item nos. 74-84.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting March 27, 2007. The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on April 3, Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. at IBSAG Conference Room, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the Special Assets Department at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645, 2308.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
Chairman
HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI – Mar. 25, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Central Office Bids and Awards Commitee
37E Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1003 Manila
Trank Line: 743-83-01 locals 1650, 1651 & 1652l Fax: 743-8301 local 1651
URL: htpp:www.doh.gov.ph

22 March 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Health through its Central Office Bids and Awards Commitee (COBAC), invites consulting firms to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and shortlisted to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	:	Hospital Performance Indictors for and Current Status of Health Service Delivery of Tertiary Hospitals outside of Metro Manila (IFB-CS-GOP-2007-12)
Brief Description	:	The consulting firm is task to conduct a study on the most significant aspects of care, evaluate the status of the country's hospitals and develop local hospital performance indicators that would be used to evaluate and improve individual hospitals, focus investments for national hospital improvement and growth and serve as valuable input to the Philippine Hospital Development Plan.
Approved Budget For the Contract	:	Php 2,170,000 00
Source of Funding	:	Government of the Philippines (GOP)
Contract Duration	:	Eight (8) months

The list of minimum requirements is indicated in the Eligbility Form. Eligibility of prospective bidders shall be checked using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Shortlisting of eligible consultants will be done based on the following criteria: experience of the consultant, qualification of personnel and current workload. A minimum of three (3) eligible bidders shall make up the shortlist. The evaluation procedure to the adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated. The technical proposal shall carry 70% weight in the bid evaluation.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	March 26-30, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligbility Forms	March 26 - 30, 2007
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Eligbility Requirements	April 2, 2007
4. Results of Eligibility Check	April 2, 2007
5. Results of Short Listing	April 9, 2007
6. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 10-24, 2007
7. Pre-bid Conference	April 12, 2007

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available at 3rd Floor, Bldg. No. 6 COBAC Secretariat, Procurement Division, San Lazaro Compd., Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila upon submission of a letter of intent. Submission and results of eligibility shall be in the same office.

Bid Documents will be available only to shortlisted bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to the Department of Health, Cashier Office.

The Department of Health assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Commitee

(PDI – Mar. 25, 2007)

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- Not over 35 years old
- College degree an advantage, preferably (Food Technology or HRM)
- With knowledge and experience in baking & has attended and finished baking courses
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT STAFF (CODE: TSD / S)

- Graduate of BS Chem. Engineering, BS Chemistry or Food Technology
- With experience in food ingredients & food product formulations
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)

SALES PROFESSIONALS (CODE: S / SP)

- Not over 35 years old
- College graduate (preferably business course)
- With job experience in selling or marketing
- With professional driver's license
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills

CREDIT & COLLECTION STAFF (CODE: FAD / CCS)

- Male, not over 35 years old
- With professional driver's license (knows how to drive a motorcycle)
- College degree an advantage
- With job experience in credit and collection
- Familiar with major roads and streets of METRO MANILA
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION STAFF (CODE: P&A / S)

- Not over 35 years old
- College graduate
- With job experience in human resource or administration
- Computer literate (Windows/MS-Office, a must)
- Has excellent oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants may call at (02)2515302-06 Look for BETH or RHODA. You may fax your resume with attached photo at (02)253-5920 or e-mail it at info@ferna.com.ph

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- ✓ Proficient in written & oral English & Tagalog
- ✓ With supervisory experience is an advantage preferably in a fastfood set-up

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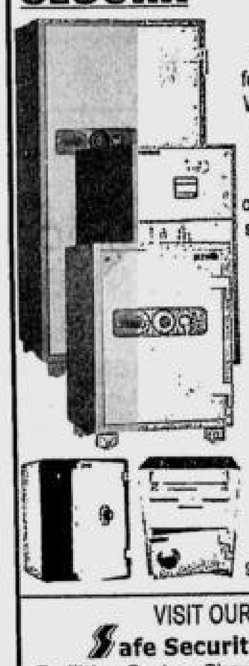

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform that the following persons are no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.**

1.	GONZALES, ILDEFONSO C.	Effective	Dec. 16, 2006
2.	DE LEON, ROLAND C.	Effective	Dec. 15, 2006
3.	PASCUAL, LLOYD RYAN G.	Effective	Jan. 31, 2007
4.	GAVIOLA, DIAN FATIMA G.	Effective	Feb. 1, 2007
5.	BOLANTE, DEXTHER A.	Effective	Feb. 15, 2007
6.	TAPLAC, ZALDRICH	Effective	Feb. 20, 2007
7.	ESTREMADURA, LEAH E.	Effective	Mar. 19, 2007
8.	PIMENTEL, MA. CRISTINA R.	Effective	Mar. 22, 2007

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and on behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PDI – Mar. 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that
MR. DINDO C. MANALO
is no longer connected with
Palisoc-Real Trading Corp.
since March 15, 2007.

Any transactions entered into by him from March 15, 2007 will NOT be honored by the Company.

(PDI–March 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. GEMMA L. DELA CRUZ,** whose photograph appears below, is no longer connected with **The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.,** as of the date indicated under her name and any transactions made for and on behalf of the Company are not authorized and are not binding on the Company.

GEMMA L. DELA CRUZ
39 Bagong Kaunlaran, Paso De Blas
Valenzuela City, 1441
July 1, 2006

(PDI–March 25, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC THAT

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2, 2007,
BENITO C. DE LEON IS NO LONGER CONNECTED
WITH **SIMPSON'S PHILS.INC.**

ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED BY HIM ON BEHALF OF SIMPSON'S AFTER MARCH 2 WILL NO LONGER BE HONORED BY THE COMPANY. ALL TRANSACTIONS WITH SIMPSON'S PHILS. SHOULD BE COURSED TO:
Simpson's Phils. Cebu Office at U-4 Mercedes Com'l Center A.C. Cortes Ave., Mandaue City Tel # (032) 343-6567; telefax (032) 343-6568 or at ***Simpson's Phils. Manila Office*** w/ address at U-206 Continental Plaza 45 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel # 725-7186; 726-9579; telefax:723-7183

(PDI – Mar. 25, 2007)

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Drct Maid Yaya intlcook Driver Boy 7282239

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ASIATRUST BANK

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS FOR THE NEGOTIATED SALE OF THE FIVE (5) LOTS ACQUIRED FROM THE FORMER REYNOLDS PHILIPPINES CORP.

A consortium of banks composed of the Land Bank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company, Asiatrust Bank and RCBC Savings Bank (collectively, the "Seller") has acquired the five (5) lots located in Bo. San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite (the "Property") from the former Reynolds Philippines Corporation.

Seller intends to sell the Property through negotiated sale, and is soliciting offers for the Property. Said offers should be submitted to Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company – Trust Banking Group ("the Administrator") with offices at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City. The offers should be received by the Administrator on or before 12 noon of 25 April 2007.

Offers should conform with the minimum terms and conditions prescribed in the Terms of Reference (TOR) to facilitate an objective and transparent evaluation by Seller. The TOR provides the guidelines in the submission, eligibility, and acceptance of the offer which may be deemed most advantageous and beneficial to Seller ("the Best Offer").

Seller will then negotiate with the party which submitted the Best Offer in the interest of enhancing the recoverable value from the Property.

Description of the Property for sale, as well as its **INDICATIVE PRICE**, is as follows:

Description	Indicative Price
Five (5) lots with total area of 264,256 sq.m. located in Brgy. San Agustin, Dasmariñas, Cavite, covered by the following TCTs: TCT No. 1038287 10,000 sq.m TCT No. 1038286 144,208 sq.m. TCT No. 1038288 95,270 sq.m. TCT No. 1038289 10,055 sq.m. TCT No. 1038290 4,723 sq.m. 264,256 sq.m. Note: LR Philippines Realty Corporation ("LRPRC") owns two adjacent parcels of land with a total area of 110,707 square meters acquired from its former joint venture partner, Reynolds Philippines Corporation ("RPC"). Said parcels of land are surrounded by the Property subject of this bidding. The Seller has agreed in principle to grant Perpetual Right of Way to LRPRC subject to mutually acceptable terms and conditions. The parties shall exert best effort to complete the negotiations before the sale of the Property. Further, LRPRC has expressed willingness to negotiate for the sale of its properties to the winning bidder, subject to terms to be mutually agreed upon.	P 467,838,000.00

A complete set of the TOR and its annexes, which consists of Offer Form, Buyer's Information Sheet, and proforma Letter of Credit will be available starting 28 March 2007 at the 18th Floor, GT Tower International Building, 6813 Ayala Avenue corner HV dela Costa St., Makati City upon payment of a non-refundable registration fee of **PESOS: Five Thousand Only (P5,000.00).**

Offers that have duly complied with the requirements set forth in the TOR will be evaluated and pre-qualified for inclusion in the selection of the Best Offer by **The Evaluation & Awards Committee – Reynolds (TEAC-Reynolds).**

The Seller reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any formality therein, accept such offer as may be considered most advantageous to the Seller or call off the acceptance of offers and call for a new mode of disposal under amended rules. The decision of the Seller is final and binding.

THE EVALUATION & AWARDS COMMITTEE – REYNOLDS
(TEAC – REYNOLDS)

(PDI – Mar. 25, 2007)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
804-0484 • 844-2995

MISCELLANEOUS

Barbwire P3,600 500m9318468

MAPS 2007 EDITION
(02)520-7649 / 09227488348

BAYANTEL SPAN LANDLINE MOBILE P749 ARIEL 0927-9860900 /4721300/4826122 LOAN/CARD AVALBLE

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE
Study Now Pay Later 5280722
0917-7924104, 0922-8148322

The estate of ANGELINA P. ALEJO has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs, Ofelia S. Alejo, Rolando, Lariza, Liza, Rico, Maria & Lea all surnamed ALEJO and reputation/donation of the whole estate has been made in favor of Rolando P. Alejo before the Notary Public Atty. Danilo Balanura on Feb. 4, 2007, DOC.#26, PAGE#6, BOOK 21, Series of 2007 (Mar. 18, 25 & Apr. 1, 2007)

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc.
#7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig City; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on Mar. 31, 2007 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to October 2006 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer
(PDI-Mar. 25, 2007)

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction-April 10, 2007
All unredeemed articles
from November 1-30, 2006
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Affidavit of Loss exec by Dr. RAMON P. PATERNO on 03/07 /07 for PCA Cert. #1247 of 05 /17/79 before Notary Public Francisco P. Tasla of QC as Doc 163 Page 34 Book 165 Series of 2007.
(PDI-Mar. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late LUALHATI A. COJUANGCO has been judicially settled among her heirs before Notary Public Ason Benedict C. Velasco of Makati City as per Doc. No. 62, Page No. 14, Book No. 1 Series of 2006. The Deed of Partition was approved in an Order dated December 8, 2006 by the Regional Trial Court, Pasay City. Branch 108 in SP Proceeding 04-00664-CFM. (Mar. 18,25 Apr. 1, 2007)

Notice Is Hereby Given that the Estate of the late RHONDA JANE B. CERTEZA was Extrajudicially Settled by the heirs as per Doc#1151 Page#304 Book#3 Series of 2004 By Notary Public Atty Gerald C. Jacob of Makati City MM.
PDI -March 25 April 1 & 8,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of NOBERTO B BLANCO was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc No. 23; Page No. 4 Book No. III Series of 2007 Before Notary Public Dulcisimo Hinanay Jr.
PDI-Mar. 11, 18 & 25, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MIGUEL P. MONTENEGRO & ROSARIO GOMEZ have been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc#015 Page#02 Book#24 Series of 2002 before Notary Public Ruben Songco of Masbate.
(PDI-March 18 & 25 April 1, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Catalino D. Abrigo has been extra-judicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No 69,Page No 15,Book No CCLXI,Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty Ricardo A. Fabros Jr of San Pablo City
(PDI-Mar 18,25, and April 01,2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JESUS RODNEY MIRANDA SANTIAGO has been extrajudicially settled as per Doc. 17; Page No. 5; Book No. 10; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Michelle B. Lazaro (Mar. 25, Apr. 1 & 8, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that BPI Stock Cert. No. 177404 & 201354, issued to ALINA'S PHILIPPINE HANDRICRAFTS was declared lost. If no contest received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI Mar. 18,25 & Apr. 1, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the Stock Cert.#B083397 issued by ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING & DEV'T CORP. to the THE PHILODRILL CORPORATION has benn reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Mar. 25 & Apr. 1 & 8, 2007)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that IONICS, INC. Stock Cert.#43825 with 10,000 shares issued to OSCAR U. ONG was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - March 18, & 25 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. O.R. Nos. 1112100032981-90; 32991-3000; 33001-010; 32841-50; 32924-20; 40425-430 was declared lost & invalid by EDNA G. DE PEDRO. If found, pls. Call 636-0109/6279531
(PDI-Mar. 11, 18 & 25, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that ACR No. E022689 issued to JOSEPH HARDMAN ZUCCHERO was lost. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued. PDI–March 25 & April 1, 2007

Notice is hereby given that Forum Pacific, Inc. Stock Cert#17455 with 100,000 shares issued to MANNY L. GO was lost. If no contest is received, new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Mar. 25 & Apr. 1 & 8, 2007)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Need 20person Work thru Phone txt name/age 0919-4039971

RTW closing sale kids adults P20 up to P50 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Acctg Clerk/bookkeeper (female) Office staff w/knwldg in Corel / Adobe Invty (College Level)-Male Email bio-data to : dscinc1983@yahoo.com or Apply in person Look for Weng at S102 Comfoods Bldg.,Buendia,Makati

ACCTNG / COUNTER STAFF
Urgent Requirements Female with min 2 yrs exp in Travel Agency. Interested applicants Please Call 628-1399; 0928-7549627 email: yolalvarez@gmail.com

CAREGIVER • 528-0747

CASHIER Female 24-27y/o with or w/out exp College Lvl HAIRSTYLIST Male/Female 25-32 y/o min 2 yrs exp. resides at Nova. proper for newly open salon 9306379

DENTAL ASST. FEMALE
4163628 or 09176294476

Driver Yaya 5Maids 7404103

ELEM and HS 6814095 Mrkna

HIRING
SKILLED WEB DEVS. Knows any of the ff. PHP, SQL, LINUX, FLASH, CSS, ROR, JAVA, VB Willing to learn, Contact us: 8182766 or send resume r.tayag@lucid.ph

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Immediate Hiring Credit Investigator/Sales/Mktg. Asst/Office Staff 8970614

LADY DENTIST 09178732057

LLB Grad Roxas Blvd. Law Offc 12T/mon 852-8128, 472-6949

MALE/FEMALE STUDY OF Elec'l/Mech'l/Civil/Sales Eng'r/Bookkeeper/Sec/ Nurse/Law&Medicine 1143 Pasong Tamo cor Kamagong Makati

MARKETING TONER & INK W/ experienced. An Active Person Tel. 8908270/Fax:8991229-Makati

PLANT SUPERVISOR OFFICER-IN-CHARGE
Male/Female 25 to 35 years old background in printing and/or color matching with leadership qualities very organized able to work responsibly with minimal supervision good in mathematics call 9260106; 9262776

Sales Rep w/Exp
Prefer Mech'l Eng'g
CNC Machining Center
Operator CNC Lathe Operator
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SECRETARY P.O. BOX 558 MLA

SINGER (HOBBYIST)
QUALIFICATIONS
FEMALE 18-25 YRS OLD
HEIGHT 5'2" AND ABOVE
WHITE/FAIR/COMPLEXION
CAN SING ALTO/SOPRANO
ABLE TO HARMONIZE
GOOD PLEASING PERSONALITY FOR TV/RADIO EXPOSURE
BRING MINUS ONE/DEMO TAPE FOR AUDITION
ATTACH PHOTOGRAPH ON YOUR RESUME
CALL 9260106 / 9262776

URGENT DRAFTSMAN MAKATI 8133568 8138420

WANTED: ACCTG CLERK FEMALE ACCTG GRAD COMP LITERATE 7051373 7223462

Wanted Chef,Nutritionist, Account Exec All W/ exprncd 4 a new hotel in Sn Pablo City Call Erna 0928-5030708

WANTED: LOAN AGENT TriCorp Lending Investors Inc. 305 P & J Bldg. E. Rodrigues Jr. Ave. Bagong Ilog Pasig TelFax 671-6211 • 672-2276

Wanted PHARMACIST Call 367-5969

XRAY CT SCAN TECH S LIC 7111967 7126452 2640 RIZAL AVE STA CRUZ MLA

IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!
HUMAN RESOURCE PERSONNEL TEL#5338486

Carmen (Ching) L. Salvosa Javier-Evans

(Of Bay, Laguna; Polillo, Quezon; & Javier, Leyte)
Dec. 23, 1948 - Feb. 26, 2007
Passed away in the grace of our Lord at the age of 58.

Her bereaved parents **Simeon & Lourdes Salvosa Javier**, husband **Bill Evans**, son **David**, daughter **Krista**, brothers and sisters **Dolores & Roberto de Guzman, Simeon Jr. & Marisse Torres, Philip & Dee Etorma, Hi-loh & Aniceto Cabrera, Daniel S. Javier, M.D.**, and **Pinky & Danilo Alcazar**, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, relatives, friends, and in-laws request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains were laid in state at the McCormick Mortuary, Redondo Beach, CA. Funeral services were held at the American Martyr's Church, Manhattan Beach, CA. and interment at the Holy Cross Cemetery, Culver City, CA. on March 5, 2007.

The 40th day of her passing away falls on Good Friday (April 6, 2007). For prayers, the gathering of relatives, friends and accociates will be held at the chapel of the Salvosa family residence in Bay, Laguna.

Our heartfelt gratitude to all those who condoled with us.

We, the Family of the late

Joaquin "Aquin" Santos Sumpaico, Sr.

Remember, celebrate and believe in Christ's love
as manifested in our Papa's life.

Thank you for your prayers, offerings, and
presence that made his passage to eternal life
a comfort and a grace.

Reddie and Sandy, Carlo, Lissa, Ninin
Jojo and Ditsy, Tippy and Obet, Sam, Riel and Iguel
Fr. Jonjee, SJ, Jaypee and Odette, Jong
Fr. Lennie, SJ
Mimi and Bits, Tuton, Ayen, Cissy and
Lara Didit

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want... Psalm 23:2

Message of Thanks

We thank you who comforted us
during our time of grief, who helped us
embrace the memory of
Aileen 'Ayen' 'Yeye'
(Daughter & Sister)
and helped us bear a loss that makes
words fail.

From the family of

Aileen Vallada Adviento

January 25, 1975 – January 25, 2007

In loving memory of the late

Reynato Mactal Sarmenta

(Guimba, Nueva Ecija)
who joined his Creator on March 23, 2007
at the age of 71
and was survived by his wife ***Norma Talens Sarmenta.***

His Daughters and their Husbands.
Tet and Eddie Morales
Liza and Roy Francisco
Ching and Jon Tomas
Emy and Bong Delantar, Jr.
Cecile and Jayvee Viray, Jr.
Chary and Russel Peña
Sister **Varlentinita Sarmenta Talens**

His body lies in state at the family residence, Afan Salvador St. corner Parairo St. Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Tuesday March 27, 2007 at the Garden of Eternal Blessing after the 8:30 Mass at Saint John the Evangelist Parish Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

MARIA LUISA "MALU, MARILU" ENRIQUEZ DEL ROSARIO

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 23, 2007.

Her loving husband **Dr. Horacio del Rosario**, children **Vicky** and **John, Rob** and **Tracy, John** and **Olga, Gloria, Glen** and **Tonya** and **Tony**, siblings and grandchildren request the readers to pray for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her cremated remains will be brought to Immaculate Concepcion Cathedral, Cubao, Quezon City on March 31, 2007, Saturday, wherein the Holy Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am in the Crypt's chapel.

Interment will follow afterwards.

BELEN BOTOR CUEVAS

of Tuy, Batangas & San Juan, Metro Manila
Peacefully joined our Lord on March 22, 2007
at the age of 84.
Her children
Conchita (+) and Narciso Lorilla, Godofredo and Lucila Cuevas,
grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.
Her remains lie in state at the Genesis Funeral Homes, Santolan, San Juan.
Interment will be on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the San Juan Cemetery.

CLASSIFIEDS

Summer arts workshops at CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE Philippines (CCP) and its resident companies once again open its doors to young children and adults alike with a cornucopia of summer activities they would surely learn and enjoy!

Theater courses include Children's Theater (5-11yrs old); Teen Theater (12-16yrs old); Musical Theater for Teens (12-16 yrs old); Musical Theater for Adults and Beginning Acting (17yrs old and above). For those interested in backstage work: Lighting Design, Audio Design and Events, Production and Stage Management. A lecture series is also conducted for directing (script analysis, visualization and blocking, rehearsal techniques, collaboration with designers and special problems); while a special tour/lecture entitled Philippine Theater History will be provided by Tanghalang Pilipino Actor's Company.

Young writers can enroll in Tanghal Tula or in Batang Sining, while potential visual artists can hone their talent in children's arts, and basic drawing and painting workshops.

For dance, Pangkat Pambata Folk Dance Workshop is provided for children 6-13 years old, while the National Folk Dance Workshop is offered to teachers and other professionals. Ballet for children as young as 4 yrs old, classical and modern ballet, jazz and hip hop are also offered.

All workshops except visual arts start on April 10. For registration and inquiries, please call 832-1125 local 1607. Information on all of these offerings are available at the CCP's website at www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY OF ILOILO

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Iloilo City invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following project.

Name of Project:	Purchase of Brand New - two (2) units Bulldozer
Bid No.:	0340
Approved Budget for the Contract:	P 28,400,000.00
Source of Fund:	SB# 5 – 2006
Office:	General Services Office
Name of Project:	Purchase of Brand New – One (1) unit Back Hoe Excavator
Bid No.:	0164
Approved Budget for the Contract:	P 7,840,000.00
Source of Fund:	SB# 5 – 2006
Office:	General Services Office
Name of Project:	Purchase of Brand New – two (2) units Dumptruck
Bid No.:	0101
Approved Budget for the Contract:	P 7,600,000.00
Source of Fund:	SB# 5 – 2006
Office:	General Services Office

The Schedule of Bidding Activities is as follows:

Period for the Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Bid Documents:	March 26 - April 03, 2007
Pre-Bid Conference at the City Legal Office Conference Room:	April 10, 2007
Last Day of Submission of Bids in Sealed Envelopes (c/o BAC Secretariat):	April 24, 2007 10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids in Sealed Envelopes at the City Legal Office Conference Room:	April 24, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Complete sets of Eligibility Requirements may be obtained from the Office of the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City. Duly accomplished Eligibility Forms shall be submitted in sealed envelope addressed to the BAC Chairman, c/o BAC Secretariat.

Eligible contractors may obtain the Bid Tender Documents at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, City Hall, Iloilo City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand (P 2,000.00) Pesos on the above prescribed period.

Prospective Bidders shall signify their conformance to the Bidding Terms and Conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The criteria to be used by BAC in the Eligibility Check of Prospective Bidders shall be on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis.

The provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable rules and regulations shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract.

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject all Bids or part thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that is considered most advantageous to the Local Government Unit.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EDGARDO GIL**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–March 25, 2007)

Registration review for voluntary retake going on

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) announced that the registration for the Special Review program for the voluntary retake examinations of the equivalent of Tests III and V of the June 2006 Nursing Licensure Examination will begin on March 21 until April 4, 2007.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion indicated that the registration for the Special Review program may either be on-line through a website established by the DOLE for the purpose, or manual registration.

Registrants are advised to follow these procedures: For on-line registration, 1) type

http://www.specialnursingreview.dole.gov.ph on the address bar of your Internet browser; 2) click the Register button on the menu bar; 3) type your PRC License number and Last name on the corresponding box provided, then click the Register button; 4) type the necessary information to complete the registration process, then click the Continue button; 5) select your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd preferences from the list of specific fields (area, school, and schedule) then click the Submit button; 6) click the Print button to obtain a copy of proof of registration; 7) a notification will be sent to your contact number (text or e-mail) by the COE or selected nursing schools prior to the start of special review class; 8) once notified, you must secure a copy of proof of confirmation by visiting the website and simply printing the confirmation slip as provided by the system; 9) click the "if already registered, check your confirmation here" message at the bottom part of the screen; 10) and, to view and print the proof of confirmation, type your PRC license number and Last Name on corresponding box provided, then click Check confirmation and Print buttons, respectively.

For manual registration, 1) secure a Registration Form from any DOLE Regional or Provincial Office or any of the listed COE and selected nursing schools; b) fill up the necessary information; c) submit the accomplished form to any of the offices/institutions and secure a copy of registration; d) a notification will be sent to your contact number or e-mail by the COE and selected nursing schools, if you haven't received a notification two weeks prior to your scheduled date of review, you may visit any of the offices mentioned for the list of confirmed reviewees; 5) and, once notified, you must secure a copy of proof of confirmation from the schools indicated in the notification document/text message.

Manual registration may be done either in the Regional Centers of Excellence (COEs) coordinating schools, Participating Nursing Schools, and DOLE Regional and Provincial Offices.

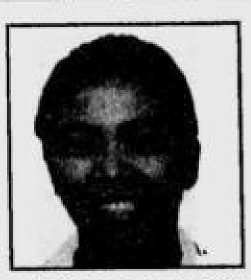
Both on-line and manual registrants to the Special Review program are advised that the proof of confirmation must be presented during the first meeting of the review.

Brion said that the Special Review Program is being made available free of charge, on a first-come, first served basis, in coordination with the recognized COEs in the field of nursing, and participating nursing schools.

The COEs are as follows: National Capital Region (NCR) – University of the Philippines Manila, Saint Paul University Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas, UERM Medical Center, St. Paul University Iloilo, Silliman University, St. Louis University Baguio City, Xavier University Cagayan de Oro, and San Pedro College Davao.

The Participating Nursing Schools are as follows: Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Trinity University of Asia, Saint Mary's University – Bayombong, Saint Paul University - Dumaguete, Velez College, Saint Paul University – Manila, Remedios T. Romualdez Memorial School (Makati Medical Center), West Visayas State University, Sacred Heart College, PCU – Mary Johnston College of Nursing, Cebu Normal University, De La Salle Health Sciences Campus, Southern Luzon State University, Mariano Marcos State University, Cebu Doctors University, and University of the Philippines Manila School of Health and Sciences (Palo, Leyte, Philippines).

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **Mrs. Mary Grace Sandoval Maquirang** (formerly Key Accounts Specialist), whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with our company Seagull Glassworks effective March 1, 2007.

Any transaction entered into by her on behalf of Seagull on and after the said date shall be deemed unauthorized and will not be honored by the company.

(PDI - March 25, 2007)

NOTICE

EDMON P. MARDICAS

The public is hereby informed that the person named herein and whose picture appears above is no longer connected with
PROGRESSIVE MEDICAL CORPORATION
since February 19,2007. Mr. Mardicas left the company without proper endorsement of his accountabilities.
Any transaction made by him for or on behalf of PMC after the date indicated above will not be honored.

(PDI - March 25, 2007)

Ecop announces Kapatid awards finalists

A TOTAL OF 17 FIRMS WERE RECOGNIZED AS Child Labor Free and Child-Friendly under the child labor project of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) with the International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labor of the International Labor Organization (ILO-Ipec).

The recognition program puts a high premium on the corporate policies and practices of firms that redound to the benefit of children. "We want companies to apply them to the supply chain, especially in the informal sector where conditions are worst because they are unregulated. It is all about transparency as we urge them to publicize the steps that they are taking to forestall the occurrence of the worst forms of child labor in the workplace and opening up their facilities to public scrutiny," stressed Dulce Festin-Baybay, chair of Ecop's Child Friendly Committee.

Recognized this year in the business category are Globe Telecom Inc., Vitarich Corp, Johnson and Johnson (Philippines) Inc., Fiesta Brands Inc., Central Azucarera Don Pedro, Sunlife of Canada (Philippines) Inc, New City Commercial Corporation-Davao, Splash Corporation, and Marco Polo-Davao. On the other hand, the finalists in the non-business category are Metrobank Foundation Inc., Association for the Rights of Children in Southeast Asia, Philippine Airlines (PAL) Foundation, Splash Foundation Inc., Mother Laura Gertrude Seland Foundation Inc., Family Planning of the Philippines Inc., Sarmiento Foundation Inc., and the Sugar Industry Foundation Inc.

The recognition rites is one of the highlights of the two-day 28th National Conference of Employers (NCE XXVIII) which reels off last March 20 at the Manila Hotel on the theme, "Reaching Out: Competitiveness, Partnerships, Reforms." The Conference is chaired by Alfredo M. Yao, chair of Zest-O Corporation and co-chaired by Ecop vice presidents Fe T. Palileo and Aniano G. Bagabaldo, and Joji Ilagan-Bian.

Ecop president Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr. emphasized the need for the business community to work hand-in-hand with government and civil society in combating the child labor menace, saying "this cannot be solved by one sector alone."

At the same time, Ecop announced the finalists of the 2007 Kapatiran sa Industriya (Kapatid) Awards.

This biennial awards which was launched in 1995 honors one Grand Kapatid Awardee and gives special citations to companies that have exemplified good business practices in the areas of industrial relations, quality and productivity, social accountability and strategic visioning and job preservation.

This year's KAPATID Awards finely rendered in glass sculpture and exclusively designed for the ceremonies by world renowned artist Ramon Orlina, will be personally awarded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the recognition rites culminating the 28th National Conference of Employers (NCE XXVIII) on March 20-21 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

JOB *Market*

SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 2007
Philippine Copyright 1995

For jobseekers, log on to:
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities

₱230 per column centimeter every [illegible]
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Find A Career In Here.

it's a great time to be
the innovator's innovator.

IBM®

3 letters that spell out new possibilities, career advancement and innovation.

Work for a company unlike any other.
Because you are NOT like everybody else.
Be an IBMer.

IBM Daksh, the world's leading innovator in Business Process Outsourcing, invites you to take on the following **Support and Leadership positions** that provide **new possibilities, career advancement** and **innovation** as you partner with us in becoming special and staying special.

Be part of our newest account! Our Client is today's biggest consumer electronics player.

Operations
- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Floor Support Trainers

Human Resources
- Senior Associate – Employee Relations
- Senior Associate – Employee Engagement
- Senior Associate – HR Information Systems
  - Shall be managing the Peoplesoft program for HRIS (will handle updates, encoding, reports generation on Headcount, Attrition & Retention rates)
  - Will also be responsible for 201 files management (document filing & tracking)
  - Background in HRIS or in any HR related functions, an advantage
  - Above average computer skills (MS Office, Excel, Powerpoint)

Workforce
- Assistant Manager – Workforce
- Senior Associates and Leads – Workforce

Quality
- Quality Manager – Technical Account
- Team Leads – Technical Account
- Senior Associates and Leads – Technical Account

Training
- Voice and Accent Trainer
  - Should have at least 1 year work experience, six months of which should have been spent in teaching, doing call center work, or being a broadcaster
  - Should be familiar with linguistics and facilitating grammar and speech classes
  - Should have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Product Trainers – Technical Account

Finance
- Manager – Financial Planning
- Senior Associate – Fixed Asset Custodian
- Senior Financial Analysts

Information Technology
IT Manager – Projects
  - Exposure to the IT Services/IT Enabled Services and/or BPO industry
  - Experience in developing project proposals that cover the origin of projects, implementation timelines, identification of risks, contingency plans and other projects impacted within the scope of IT
  - With sound understanding of Applications, LAN, WAN, Telecom & Voice platforms and appreciation of interplay between these
- Manager – IT Operations
- Assistant Manager/Manager – Systems Administrator
- Assistant Manager/Manager – Data Network
- Assistant Manager – Voice Network
- Technical Support Engineer
- Helpdesk Analyst

Strategic Quality
- Manager – Strategic Quality (Audit)
- Manager – Project Management Review
- Assistant Manager – Six Sigma
- Quality Manager – Business Continuity Management
  - Must be an Engineering or Management degree holder with exposure to management practices
  - Must have 5 to 10 years work experience
  - Must have business continuity work exposure
  - Quality systems certification is desirable
  - Exposure to IT services/IT enabled services is an advantage
  - Must have proven experience in developing and monitoring a risk assessment scorecard and balanced scorecard
- Quality Manager – Knowledge Management
  - Must be a Management degree holder
  - Must have exposure in different quality programs such as Six Sigma, ISO and eSCM
  - Must have experience in leading projects, preferably in a call center environment
  - Must be able to successfully manage multiple projects simultaneously

Recruitment
- Recruitment Associate
- Business Intelligence Manager (Black Belt Six Sigma Certified)

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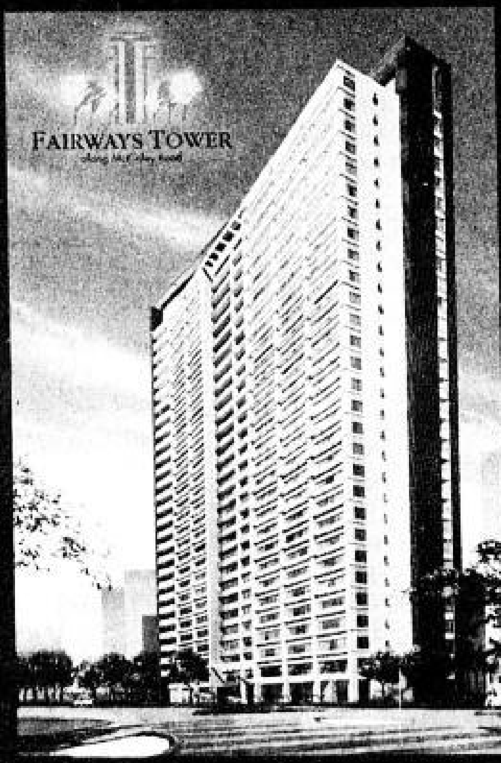

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- Possess excellent communication skills
- Has pleasing personality and can deal effectively with clients
- Selling experience is an advantage
- Fresh graduates/entry level applicants are welcome to apply

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ONE DAY RECRUITMENT for **PROPERTY CONSULTANT(S)** is scheduled on **MARCH 27, 2007** from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the **8/F RFM Corporate Center Pioneer St. cor Sheridan St. Mandaluyong City**.

Interested applicants may contact
(02) 631-8101 local 7433 or text (0917) 853-6539
c/o April Tani

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

- Must be a graduate of any four year business course from a reputable university
- Must have at least 5 years exposure in business planning (market research, conceptual planning and financial modeling) gained from a real estate company
- Able to design and conduct market studies and analyze results to determine market demand and its impact to the business; familiar with variety of the field concepts, practices, and procedures
- Resourceful, creative and persistent in collecting market and industry data from various sources
- Strong analytical/business problem-solving skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

BROKER(S)

- Male or female
- With proven track record in real estate sales
- Will market and sell residential properties
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be flexible, aggressive, enterprising and a team player

SENIOR QUANTITY SURVEYOR/ CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

- Graduate of Civil Engineering; preferably licensed
- Male or Female, with at least 5 years related working experience
- Must be well versed in handling bid preparations and reviews
- With extensive background on contracts preparations and schedules
- Must be organized, keen to details, flexible and output-oriented
- Possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills

Respondents are requested to send their resumes and recent 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Via email : pti.hrd@philtown.com.ph
Via mail : (please indicate position on the envelope)

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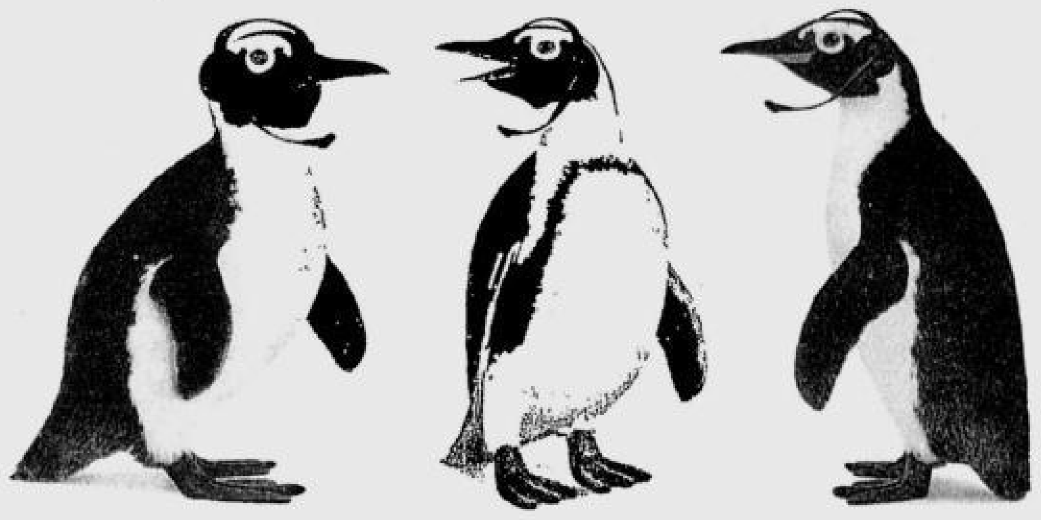

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Implementations Manager
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Qualifications: Male, not over 40 years old, at least 3 years experience
Personally and submit your comprehensive resumé, copy of employment and school certificates, copy of valid passport, NBI, recent photo 6 2x2 size & full body pictures white background to:

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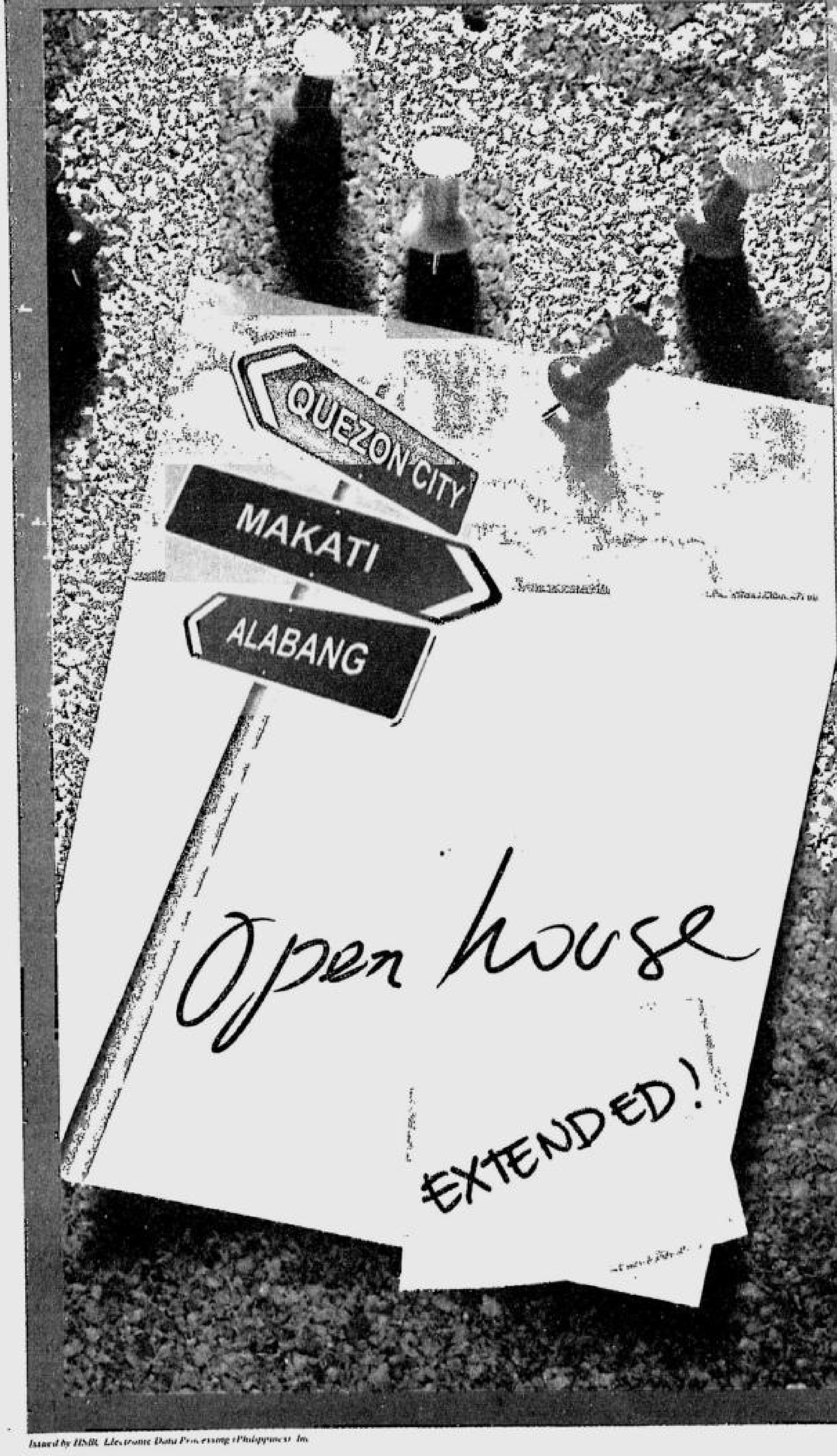

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In the Philippines, World Vision Development Foundation provides assistance to the children, families and communities in 34 provinces and 22 cities.

We are looking for Christian professionals whose faith and values match our mission to work with the poor for the following positions:

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HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT MANAGER: This position will provide leadership in the development, implementation and coordination of strategic, holistic and practical HR processes. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management, Psychology and/or bachelor's degree with equivalent substantial experience in managing Human Resource Development Administration and HR Programs; at least 3 years of broad and deep experience in leading and managing Human Resource team/s and relevant experience in recruitment and compensation management; with strength in HR workforce planning, recruitment, orientation, salaries and benefits administration, employee relations, diversity management, info systems and development.

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SERVER AND DATA ADMINISTRATOR: This position will provide professional service for effective information systems and technology support in the area of server and data administration. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or broad knowledge of computer science field; at least 2 years of broad and deep experience in server administration; with strength in server management and maintenance, database design and administration, security, and client installation.

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR: This position will provide professional service for effective information systems and technology support in the area of system administration and development; administers, maintains operating stability and efficiency, conducts technology research; purchases, deploys and configures new hardware and software; provides user training and support continuously improving the organization system. Applicants must have at least 3 years of broad and deep experience in system analysis/development and administration; with experience in designing, developing, testing, implementing and maintaining application systems software; worked as a systems analyst, knowledgeable in programming and database administration; effective personal communication skills, both verbal and written, and ability to work in a team environment.

WEB DEVELOPER/DESIGNER: This position will provide professional service for effective information systems & technology support in the area of web development design. Applicants must have a Bachelors degree in Information Technology or broad knowledge in the field of computer science; at least two (2) years of broad and deep experience in website development and graphic arts with strength in web design and programming: expertise in web applicable Java technologies such as Java EE/J2EE, JSP, servlets, EJB and all related industry standard best practices and/or patterns, Expertise in internet technologies, standards compliant, cross browser, HTML, CSS, JavaScript and familiarity with HTTP and CGI, expertise in one or more database technologies including the preferred DB2, Sybase, Oracle and/or Informix; Experience in developing and integrating systems targeting multi-platform environments (i.e., XP, NT, UNIX, Mac, PDAs, etc.; expertise in multimedia development/production and creative graphic design, use of the Adobe Photoshop, illustrator, PageMaker, Corel draw, macromedia flash, dream weaver and other graphic and multimedia applications.

MULTI-MEDIA/GRAPHIC DESIGNER: This position will provide technical support in the development, implementation and coordination of holistic, practical and progressive communication strategies. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and or related course in Graphics & Media Design and/ or equivalent experience in graphic designs and media solutions; at least two (2) years experience in providing technical expertise and support in web design, multimedia production and media solutions; with strength in graphics design and multimedia solutions. Extensive experience in designing, print production or related tasks. Proficient in Adobe InDesign, Illustration, Premiere, Macromedia, Dreamweaving, Freehand or Corel Draw and Adobe Photoshop; creative, flexible, team player and can work under pressure.

All applicants must have a strong Christian commitment as evidenced by life and character and is open to ecumenical orientation. Please send your application letter & comprehensive resume' with picture detailing work history to: **theresa_ramos@wvi.org** or write to WORLD VISION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, c/o Human Resources Department (Attn: Tere Ramos), 883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, 1104.

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- Knowledgeable in menu planning, menu execution and recipe costing.
- Should have at least 2 years Sous Chef experience.
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RESTAURANT MANAGER

- A minimum of 2 years relevant experience in dining and restaurant operation is required.
- Must be able to run a shift, training and mentoring skills is an advantage.
- Is highly adaptable and flexible; possess management skills.
- At least 30 years old and above.

MARKETING MANAGER

- Preferably HRA/HRM/Marketing/Management or Business Graduate.
- 24 years old above and experience in branding.
- Must have a passion for advertising, promotions, events coordination, graphic designing, and public relations.
- Enthusiastic, decisive, resourceful and creative.
- At least 2 years work experience is a Marketeer.

SHIFT MANAGER

- Preferably HRA/HRM or any Business graduate with restaurant Supervisory experience.
- Must be able to supervise a shift, training and mentoring skills are an advantage.
- Thorough, creative, dynamic or organized.
- At least 25 years old and above.

Interested applicants may submit their resumés to:
Human Resources Department
11/Flr. Unit 11C Agustin 1 Bldg. No. 28
F. Ortigas Jr. Avenue (Formerly Emerald Avenue)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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- Graduate of ECE or any IT related course;
- Must have excellent communication and technical skills;
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- Willing to work on shifting schedule.

COLLECTION OFFICERS

- Graduate of any 4-year Business course;
- Must have HIGH NUMERICAL PROFICIENCY;
- Must have excellent communication and negotiation skills.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

- Graduate of any 4-year course;
- Must have pleasing personality;
- Must have excellent English communication skills both oral and written;
- Relevant experience in Customer Service is an advantage;
- Must be flexible, organized and can work under pressure.

FINANCIAL SPECIALIST

- Must be a graduate of Accountancy, preferably CPA;
- Must have at least one (1) year work experience in Financial Analysis and Forecasting;
- Willing to work in Manila.

APPRAISERS / CREDIT INVESTIGATORS

- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer;
- Must have at least one (1) year experience in Appraising properties;
- Willing to do field work.

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Graduate of any 4-year Business related course;
- Must have excellent communication skills and strong customer orientation;
- Must have good driving skills;
- Must have at least 1 year work experience in related field;
- Experience in selling premium products is an advantage.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS / BOOKKEEPERS

- Graduate of any 4-year Business course, preferably BS Accountancy;
- Knowledgeable in basic Computer Applications;
- Very good communication skills both verbal and written;
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GENERAL CLERKS / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Graduate of any 4-year Business course;
- Excellent knowledge in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint;
- Must have at least 3 years work experience in an office based position;
- Very good English communication skills is a must;
- Experience in a multi-cultural environment is an advantage but not required.

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DOLE to sign accord with data source agencies

THE DEPARTMENT OF Labor and Employment (DOLE) is set to forge an agreement with data source agencies to generate the Philippine labor index (PLI) and capture the actual situation of labor and employment in the country, especially the progress in achieving decent work for the Filipino workers.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion will sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with heads of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), National Statistics Office (NSO), AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS), and the National Statistical and Coordination Board (NSCB) which produce data relevant to the generation of PLI.

The signing will be held at the Manila Pavilion Hotel on March 26. The signatories will include Secretaries Brion and Ronaldo Puno of the DOLE and DILG, respectively, SSS president and CEO Corazon dela Paz, GSIS president and General Manager Winston Garcia, NSO Administrator Carmelita Ericta, AFP RSBS president and CEO Jose Nano, and NSCB Secretary General Romulo Virola.

Brion said that under the MOU, the institutional partners will provide the DOLE's Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES) with statistics and other relevant data that would be needed in the timely generation of the PLI and the subsequent analysis of the status of decent work in the country.

Brion said the PLI will serve as a guidepost for policy makers and program implementers on the progress made towards attaining the goals of decent work and in increasing employment opportunities and improving productivity particularly those who are poor as well. It will, thus, complement other development indicators such as the growth in gross domestic product (GDP) and human development index (HDI), he said.

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- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Advertising/Management, Sales & Marketing, or equivalent
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication

ADMINISTRATION SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of any Engineering Course
- 2 to 3 years experience in building administration or related job
- 2 years management experience
- Exposure in administration services and budget management

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably with Accounting background
- At least 1 year experience in a similar job
- With knowledge of basic purchasing principles
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, report writing and filing skills

WEB CONTENT SPECIALIST

- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- Candidates must possess knowledge and/or experience with the following: Web content management using Wordpress, XHTML/DHTML/HTML, Javascript, CSS, PHP, RSS and other interactive media tools
- Highly motivated, organized, resourceful, creative, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- In addition, the following skills and experience are highly desirable but not required: Knowledge of and experience with additional web development tools (Photoshop, Flash, Fireworks, Dreamweaver, etc.), Web server administration, domain administration, and search engine optimization (SEO)
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Between 19-30 years old
- A graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree), from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P
- Equipped with exceptional designing skills
- Organized, resourceful, and creative
- Able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- Willing to work overtime
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Magazine/Collaterals Design

SALES SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising or any business course
- At least 3 years Management/Sales experience
- Articulate and possess exceptional presentation skills
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership and business sense to train and manage a sales team
- Creative in formulating sales strategies
- Aggressive in achieving sales targets
- Pleasing personality

TRADE MARKETING ASSISTANT

- College graduate preferably Accounting/Management course
- At least 1 year experience in a similar job
- Computer literate, organized, methodical and with knowledge on basic accounting principles
- Good interpersonal, communication, office management and selling skills

hinge inquirer
PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may email their resumés to any of the ff: hrd@hip.ph, spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph, jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

Oxfam

Working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam's Philippines Programme needs two (2)

Administrative Assistant

The Role

Within the context of Oxfam GB's development philosophy and strategic programme in the Philippines, this post will be part of the team that is responsible for the delivery of adequate, timely and cost effective administrative services and project systems support to the country programme.

Key Responsibilities

- Information/communication services (includes a wide range of activities from reception to production of communication/information materials)
- Administrative and logistical services, supporting both the regular programme and the emergency humanitarian response programme
- General programme support (includes a wide range of assistance to programme teams in dealing with projects with partners)

Core Personal Skills and Competencies

- Good interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to relate to people of all backgrounds and the ability to work as part of a team
- Flexible and able to prioritize workload, to take initiative, work independently and meet deadlines
- Experience/Understanding of development work and NGO ways of working: shows commitment to Oxfam's overall aims and objectives including commitment to promoting diversity and gender equality
- A high level of skills and experience in using internet and standard and specialized computer softwares
- Diplomacy, tact and negotiation skills
- Skills and experience in effective data and file management including library resource management
- Understanding of administrative, financial and logistics systems and controls

Send an application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
Oxfam Great Britain
95-A Malumanay Street,Teacher's Village,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 Email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application: 13 April 2007
Interview dates : 19-20 April 2007

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

Oxfam

Working with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam's Philippines Programme needs a

Finance Assistant

The Role

Within the context of Oxfam GB's development philosophy and programme in the Philippines, this post will be part of a team that will provide secure and efficient financial services, ensure quality and accuracy of financial data and assist programme teams in financial management of programme budgets, partner/donor contracts and in staff/partner finance capacity building.

Key Responsibilities

- Efficient and accurate processing of financial transactions
- Management of receipts and receivables
- Accurate documentation of all financial transactions and efficient filing/safe keep of all finance documents
- Partner management support, to include partner finance system appraisal; monitoring and audit, as well as partner finance capacity building
- Donor contract management support to include assistance in preparation of budget proposals, monitoring donor fund spending vs budgets, and preparation of finance reports to donors
- Provide financial support/services, as required during emergency response

Core Personal Skills and Competencies

- At least two years experience in financial transaction processing/data handling and with demonstrable attention to details, numeracy skills and accounting ability
- Experience in conducting financial audits
- Experience in computerized finance processes
- Experience/understanding of basic logistic systems and controls
- Experience in designing and conducting finance trainings; with demonstrable ability to explain complex finance issues
- Effective verbal and written communication skills, high degree of diplomacy and tact, supportive, flexible and able to influence others
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines/targets
- Commitment to Oxfam's overall aims and objectives including commitment to promoting diversity and gender equality

Send an application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
Oxfam Great Britain
95-A Malumanay Street,Teacher's Village,
Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 Email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application: 13 April 2007
Interview date : 19-20 April 2007

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

JOB Market COMPACT

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

JOB Market

McKinsey & Company is a management consulting firm advising the top management of leading companies and institutions on issues of strategy, organization, and operations, we have more than 80 offices worldwide including our Southeast Asia offices – Bangkok, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Singapore.

In a Manila-based position, the Professional Development and Recruiting Administrator will support the current South East Asia Professional Development and Recruiting teams with their administrative requirements.

Professional Development and Recruiting Administrator

Your role:

- For professional development:
  - Regularly update people-related databases, support the creation of weekly staffing reports and regularly provide other staffing information needed by other groups in the Firm
  - Trigger and chase evaluation materials, support bi-annual review process
  - Undertake special projects as discussed/agreed upfront
- Recruiting Data Assistant
  - Handle selected incoming applications – input tracking data and perform basic candidate screening and communications
  - Manage input/upload of interview-related data and materials to global recruiting database
  - Extract standard reports from the recruiting databases and work with teams to create new, customized reports where necessary
  - Give ad hoc support on data, technology, and analysis related to recruiting initiatives as needed

Your profile:

- Basic technical skills such as familiarity with MS Office, Lotus Notes and on-line databases
- Outstanding organizational and administrative skills, as well as high attention to detail
- Ability to carry out multiple tasks independently and willing to take initiatives
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Professional approachable and confident personality, able to work with all levels of staff internally and externally
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines, while still contributing to a friendly and fun atmosphere

Your qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree from one of the leading universities,
- 1-3 years previous work experience in a multinational company or other professional services firm with their human resource group

We offer a highly competitive compensation package and attractive benefits, in line with experience and qualifications.

To apply:
Please forward a detailed resumé and cover letter describing your professional background to: **manilarecruit@mckinsey.com**, no later than April 4, 2007. The need is immediate and urgent! Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

McKinsey&Company

WANTED: BOOK LOVERS

We at FULLY BOOKED are always looking for hardworking, bright and savvy individuals who share our passion for books. We are now hiring people to staff our newest flagship store soon to rise at Bonifacio High Street at The Fort.

Send your resume to fb_rockwell@fullybookedonline.com with the subject heading "Job Application" or to the Customer Service desk at any Fully Booked branch.

AVIATION PARTNERSHIP PHILIPPINES

A joint venture between SIA Engineering Company and Cebu Pacific

Needs high-performing individuals to fill the following key positions:

DIRECTOR, Quality and Safety Management

This person reports directly to the General Manager, and has overall authority in the enforcement of Aircraft Inspection, Quality and Safety Management systems and procedures that ensure methods, materials, equipment, facilities and workmanship conform to the standards of the RP-ATO Civil Air Regulations and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore.

The candidate should be/have:

- A graduate of a 4-year aviation-related course;
- An RP-ATO license (Mechanic's and/or Specialist's)
- At least 5 years experience in Quality Control;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Analytical and results-oriented;
- Excited with the prospect of helping in the growth of a young company;
- Enjoys being with people and having fun while working hard.

TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTRUCTOR, Airframe and Powerplant

This person reports directly to the Deputy General Manager. He is responsible in the determination of the training needs of all Operations personnel, the preparation of training curriculum and the conduct of training courses.

The candidate should be/have:

- A graduate of a 4-year aviation-related course;
- At least 2 years experience as a Technical Instructor
- A valid RP-ATO Ground Instructor's License
- An RP-ATO license (Mechanic's and/or Specialist's) would be an advantage
- Excellent communication skills;
- Comfortable in dealing with people at any level;
- Analytical and results-oriented;
- Excited with the prospect of helping in the growth of young company;
- Enjoys being with people and having fun while working hard.

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉS TO:

Aviation Partnership (Phils.) Corporation
Airline Operations Center
8006 Domestic Road., Pasay City 1301
or e-mail to: dianne.delostrinos@aplus.com.ph

We will only respond to suitable candidates.

The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) is in search of qualified candidates for the post of **Communications Coordinator for Recovery** to be based in the UNRC Office in Makati City. The initial duration of employment is for nine (9) months, with the possibility of extension, based on performance. The post is directly under supervision of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Implement and manage the coordinated communications strategy and work plan for post-disaster recovery efforts and sustained advocacy on disasters
2. Coordinate flow of information from recovery clusters for shaping into media press releases and donor briefs
3. In coordination with the clusters and their communication focal points, develop key messages for media and donors
4. Review situation reports prepared by cluster leads and reporting officers
5. Maintain active network among national and international journalists in the Philippines
6. Coordinate the media outreach from the clusters to ensure timely and effective press coverage of major recovery efforts
7. Organize media events, briefings, conferences and press trips pertaining to early recovery and disaster risk reduction-related activities, with the support of the UN Information Centre (UNIC Manila)
8. Organize briefings and other targeted outreach on disaster-related advocacy and recovery for donors
9. Draft speeches and presentations for the Resident Coordinator to ensure inclusion of disaster-related and recovery advocacy messages
10. Liaise regularly with recovery partners in the field to keep apprised of developments
11. Identify entry points for UN advocacy and resource mobilization for recovery
12. Line up press interviews as appropriate
13. Work in close coordination with UNIC Manila and all relevant UN agencies involved in recovery activities to gather relevant recovery information and assist in dissemination to affected communities
14. Liaise regularly with national, provincial and local authorities to gather relevant recovery information and assist in dissemination to affected communities
15. Write regular website stories for UN Philippines and the UNDP corporate website
16. Write and coordinate production of printed material as needed, including press releases, media advisories, newsletters, brochures, flyers

Qualifications:

1. Advanced degree or equivalent work experience in Communications, Public Relations, or International Relations
2. Experience working with international organizations, preferably in post-disaster situations
3. At least five (5) years experience in journalism, communications or public relations
4. Proven ability to write news releases, speeches and public information material
5. Ability to work in a multi-cultural environment

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

Appointment against this post is on a local basis.

All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 2 April 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. no. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in **www.undp.org.ph** until 2 April 2007.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LICENSED SOCIAL WORKER

Apply at: The SELF Foundation
Unit 506 Southgate Building
Finance Drive, Madrigal Business Park
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
809-3491 • self@pldtdsl.net • www.selftc.org
Ask for: Sockie or Virgie

MANAGER

COMPANY ENGAGED IN MEDICAL DEVICES. APPLICANT MUST HAVE 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE PLANNING EXECUTION SALES MARKETING PLANS TO SELL, PROMOTE, LAUNCH NEW PRODUCTS, PLUS SUPERVISE TRAIN SALES FORCE IN FIELD MEDICAL PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS. COMPUTER LITERATE A PLUS.

SEND RESUMÉ TO:

2100 Eurovilla DownHomes # 48
New Panaderos St., Sta. Ana, Manila
1009

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING / EMPLOYMENT FROM A PRESTIGIOUS AND FAST GROWING FIL-EUROPEAN COMPANY WITH ATTRACTIVE PACKAGE / COMPENSATION FOR ITS 2007 NATIONWIDE SALES EXPANSION

- **Marketing Manager**
- **Product Manager**
- **Biomedical Service Engineer (ECE)**
- **Sales / Product Specialist**

REQUIREMENTS:

- Male / Female 22 to 30 years old, with or w/o experience
- Graduate of any 4 years Science-related course
- With very good PR and pleasing personality
- Highly result-oriented
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to undergo on-the-job-training

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé, 2x2 latest picture to:

The General Manager
Euro-Pacific Health Care Distributor, Inc.
5 Pine St., West Fairview, Quezon City

or e-mail us through
ephc_phils@yahoo.com

More high-end jobs awaits OFWs

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMployment (DOLE) clarified reports that there are 800,000 more high-end jobs abroad awaiting overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) this year on top of the one million annual deployment target.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion explained that the more than 800,000 new high-end jobs will be available to the Filipino workers in the next three years and not in the next three months of this year as an earlier news report indicated.

The labor chief said that the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is set to intensify its human resources development and skills training programs to train and upgrade the workers for high-end and better paying jobs not only locally but also overseas.

He said that this is part of the efforts to maximize the Filipino workers' capabilities and advantage to get employment that provides better pay and better benefits.

EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION

Is in immediate need of

one (1) Cargo Staff

Qualifications:

- Under 26 years old
- College graduate
- Fluent in English with excellent inter-personal skills with people from all levels of management
- With pleasing personality, independent and responsible
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Resides in Manila, Makati, Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon City

Please send your resumé on or before March 30, 2007

Personnel Department
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION
23rd Floor, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City

A German Multinational Company
MAN Diesel Philippines, Inc.
is in need of A WELL QUALIFIED

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

applicable for our Service Center located in Parañaque with the following qualifications:

- Female, between 21 to 30 years of age.
- Must have a degree in Bachelor of Science in Secretarial Administration or any 4-year business related course at a reputable university/college institution
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Experience in Secretarial Administration is an advantage.
- Must be Computer Literate.
- Articulate both in oral & written communication.
- Fluent in English Language is a must.
- The qualified applicant will receive above minimum salary plus allowance.

Interested applicant may send their resumé in our office at:

Km. 17 West Service Road, Cervantes Compound, Brgy. Marcelo Green
South Superhighway, Parañaque City
Tel. No. 776-3369 / 776-3347
E-mail: service@ph.manbw.com

Attention: **THE MANAGER**

Filipino hospitality, ageless; For the world, priceless.

For the past seven years, the biggest contact centers of the world have tapped the Philippines as one of their major outsourcing destinations. Many companies have taken notice of the Filipino's talent for good customer service. Multinational companies rely on this very Filipino trait to ensure continued patronage of their growing customer base and expand their business.

The Philippine call center industry has captured the world market. A total of more than half a million call center seats are expected to be filled up by the end of the decade. This means more and more jobs will be created for qualified Filipinos, further uplifting the lives of our countrymen. The Filipino Call Center Agent has proven to be the best in the world.

People2Outsource (P2O) is a company that will help you assess whether you are fit for the job and offers free training. Applying through P2O exponentially increases your chances of getting into the biggest call centers in the country.

Contrary to what people believe, the call center industry is non-discriminating. There is enough room for everyone. P2O does not only accommodate the "young ones" but also people who are still "young at heart". P2O has been successful in its endeavor to train and endorse retired overseas workers, business owners, single parents, and have produced focused people who would like to have another chance at life. It is P2O's utmost desire to strengthen Filipino family ties by helping them acquire a significant career and a meaningful life.

"Thank you very much P2O. I'll never get tired saying these words. You have made such a great impact in my life. I learned and improved a lot in terms of my communication skills and confidence. The P2O method that you guys taught me has ensured me a high-paying job with one of the biggest and most reputable call centers here in the Philippines. You guys are my answered prayer."

Lourdes Buensuceso, 27
Business Owner
Babinskie Soft Ice Cream

"Thank you very much. From here onwards, I hope I'll do you and myself proud. You have helped me realize my self-worth. I won't forget everything that you did for me. I wouldn't have found myself a promising career without your support. Thank you P2O."

Erick Esguerra, 31
Former car wash attendant

Requirements/Qualifications:

- Completed at least **three** years of college education (any course)
- At least 18 years old, **preferably 30-65 years old**
- Computer-literate (knowledge of basic Microsoft applications & Internet browsing)
- Average to excellent English communication skills
- Willing to work on graveyard shift, rotating shift and location

Bring a copy of your resume with 2X2 ID picture and apply at:

People2Outsource (Ortigas Office)
10/F, Strata 100 Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 631-2843, 631-2826
9:00am - 5:00pm • Mon - Fri

Or send your resumes to:
applicants@people2outsource.com

FREE TRAINING FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.

One application through P2O increases your chances with top call centers such as:

citigroup Convergys telecare HTMT

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PEOPLE CAREERS LIVES

PETRON CORPORATION

The country's leading oil refining & marketing company committed to excellence, professionalism, integrity, and fairness

Invites empowered & dynamic professionals for the position of:

AREA SALES EXECUTIVE

He carries out effective marketing and selling of company products in his specific area of assignment; promotes and nurtures strong relationships with key customers

- Bachelor's/College Degree in any field, preferably Engineering
- Preferably with at least 2 years work experience
- Aptitude for sales and marketing work
- Excellent oral and written communications skills
- Knows how to drive
- Willing to be assigned in the provinces

ENGINEER

Responsible for ensuring efficient depot/refinery operations

- Bachelor's/College Degree in Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical or Civil Engineering, preferably licensed Engineer
- Preferably with related work experience in process engineering and refinery operations
- Willing to be assigned in the provinces

PLANNING ANALYST

Responsible for developing both short and long term corporate plans and strategies, as well as evaluation of programs, investments and budgets, considering alignment with and attainment of overall marketing and corporate objectives

- Bachelor's/College Degree in Accountancy, Economics, Engineering or Business Management
- Master's Degree in Business Administration/Finance is an advantage
- Preferably with at least 2 years background on planning, highly analytical work, financial and project feasibility
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Possesses good interpersonal skills

ACCOUNTANT/FINANCIAL ANALYST

Responsible for the preparation and evaluation of various financial management report

- Bachelor's/College Degree Commerce/Business Administration or Accountancy, preferably a CPA
- Preferably with at least 2 years related experience
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

We are looking for candidates knowledgeable in Windows-based software applications, who are decisive and self-directed to exercise authority, adaptable to the changing demands of the times, and possesses strong entrepreneurial spirit and team orientation.

Qualified applicants may send or mail their resume, Transcript of Records & 2x2 photo to the following addresses:

Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., 1200 Makati City (Manila-based applicants)
Petron Corporation, Mandaue Terminal, Lo-oc, Mandaue City (VisMin –based applicants)

Applicants may also e-mail their resume to recruitment@petron.com
Indicate in subject line the title of the position applied

PETRON
FUEL SUCCESS

UPecon Foundation, Inc.

The **Health Policy Development Program** is a new USAID-funded, five-year initiative to assist the Department of Health (DOH) in its institutional role of shaping the policy environment towards achieving better health outcomes, a more responsive health system and equitable health care financing. The **UPecon Foundation, Inc.**, the corporate arm of the University of the Philippines School of Economics, manages this Program.

The **UPecon** is looking for two (2) Program Associates to supervise policy development activities in the following program components: (1) Local Health Systems, and (2) Cooperating Agencies/ Sectoral Development Approach for Health.

The Program Associate for Local Health System (LHS) shall perform oversight project management and monitoring functions for all projects related to the strengthening of DOH stewardship over local health systems through performance-based applications of resources coming from the DOH, other central government agencies, donor institutions and other sources.

The Program Associate for Cooperating Agencies/ Sectoral Development Approach for Health (CA/SDAH) shall assist the HPDP Chief of Party in coordinating joint plans, responses and actions among USAID Cooperating Agencies (CAs) related to their common strategic objective towards family health, and in assisting the DOH in operationalizing the sectoral development approach to health.

The Program Associates shall be responsible for ensuring that all projects under their respective components are technically sound, coherent with the overall technical framework, and achieve set targets and other deliverables. Likewise, they shall interact closely with the different offices of the DOH, attached agencies, other government offices, USAID CAs, and other donor agencies.

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

Position	Qualification
Program Associate for Local Health System	Advanced degree in public health, public policy, economics, and/or related health disciplines. At least 5 years experience in local governance, local public finance, public health programs, and/or health policy.
Program Associate for Cooperating Agencies/ Sectoral Development Approach for Health Coordination	Advanced degree in public administration, economics, public health, social sciences and/or related health disciplines **or** at least 5 years experience in project management especially with donor coordination in health, and public health

Compensation for the above positions is competitive.

Application letters expressing interest in the position together with curriculum vitae should be sent to: The Chief of Party, Health Policy Development Program, UPecon Foundation, Inc., Room 322, PCED Building, UP School of Economics, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City or email to: **upecon.hpdp@gmail.com** or facsimile to: 436-3677 on or before April 4, 2007 (Wednesday). For any inquiry please contact the Business Management Unit (BMU) at the following telephone numbers: 436-3677; 927-9686 locals 321 and 322 or email to **upecon.hpdp@gmail.com.**

APPLE & EVE

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER

- 2-4 years experience in garment manufacturing environment
- 3-Year Bachelor Degree preferred
- Be detail oriented with strong follow through
- Organize and prioritize multiple projects
- Validate and manage time/ action calendar received from sourcing channels
- Have good problem solving, negotiation and presentation skills
- Have a sense of urgency in managing time and accomplishing tasks
- Communicate daily via email and phone with sourcing channels, merchandising, planning and distribution
- Have retail math skills necessary to understand financial results of performance measures
- Use basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and percentages needed to determine costs, margins and turn
- Computer skills and how to obtain information from systems

FASHION DESIGNER/MERCHANDISER

- Male or Female, 23-34 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts or fashion related course preferred
- With outstanding creative skills in drawing, sketching, rendering and product display
- At least 2 years work experience in design related field

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT FOR STORE OPERATIONS

- College graduate of preferably a business course
- Female, 23-32 years old
- Flexible, responsive, detail-oriented, self motivated and hardworking.
- Good customer and employee relations
- Ability to lead, motivate and manage team
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business

STORE SALES PERSONNEL

- At least 2nd year college level
- Female, 22-28 years old, at least 5'4" with a pleasing personality and good client relations and oral communications skills in both English and Filipino.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
- Honest, hardworking and energetic. Self motivated and sensitive to customer's needs

INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER

- College graduate
- Degree in Business, preferably with a concentration in Accounting or Finance
- 3 years business experience
- Strong analytical and organizational skills
- Team player
- Excellent communication, interpersonal and presentation skills
- High level of integrity
- PC Skills

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSISTANT

- College graduate
- Ability to learn new technologies quickly and analyze problems effectively
- Must possess the ability to multi-task and react quickly and professionally in high stress situations
- Strong communication and organizational skills are essential
- Experience of retail distribution a plus

DATA ENCODER

- College graduate
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 1-3 years experience in any business/logistics operations
- Must be computer literate (excel, word, etc)
- Detail oriented with strong follow through; organize and prioritize multiple projects

Qualified applicants for direct hiring may send their resume with 2x2 photo to:

APPLE & EVE
Human Resources Department
#8 Jose Cruz St. Bgy Ugong, Pasig
or submit to any Apple & Eve Store
or email to: hr@apple-eve.com

V.L. CHAN LAW OFFICE & ASSOCIATES

LAWYERS & PARALEGALS

For Immediate hiring are **LAWYERS** with at least two (2) years of extensive litigation experience, who wants a well-rounded legal practice and expertise in law positioning strategy.

We are likewise in search of **PARALEGALS** who are skilled in legal research and writing, will be able to assist lawyers and can do liaison work for the law firm.

Interested parties may call **MS. ESCELLE CRUZ** at Tel No. 7246629 or send cover letter and resume at Fax No. 7217102 or email at vlchanlaw@yahoo.com.ph or visit us at Suite 101 Sunrise Condominium, 226 Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.

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GO

POEA-005-LB-020606-UL
Rm.250-258 RAMAGI Bldg. 2nd Flr., 1081 Pedro Gil St. Paco Manila
Tel. No. 404-08-58 * Email: ra-auh-cv@goph.net

URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR U.A.E.:

Reem Emirates Aluminium LLC in Abu Dhabi, an advanced manufacturing company of unitized aluminium curtain walls for high-rise buildings is announcing immediate vacancies in the following categories

- Site Surveyor Engineers with BSc. Civil Engineering Diplomas with 8 years experience
- Highly Skilled Aluminum Installers
- Highly Skilled Aluminum Fabricators / Installers
- Skilled Aluminum Fabricators

Only Candidates with relevant qualifications and at least 5 years job experience need to apply.

Final interviews will be conducted by.

Mr. Derek Bruce - General Manager & Mr. Jesus Geronimo - Factory Manager.

PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY MONDAY- SATURDAY:

All candidates should have a good English Communication Skills, apply in person and bring 2 copies of the following requirements:

Resume with detailed job description, Employment Certificates, Diploma/Transcript of Records, (4 pcs.) 2x2 pictures, (2 pcs.) Full Body Picture for Hotel/Restaurant applicants, NBI Clearance, Passport Copy, and other credentials. Insert in Long Brown Envelope

*** NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED * FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY * BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS***

JOBMARKETupdates

Text us your feedback: Inquirer WP name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Dockers San Francisco creates correct business casual through 'Style@Work'

DOCKERS SAN FRANCISCO, THE LEADING brand of men's casual business clothing, celebrates an evolution and the next phase in retailing. To complement the Dockers San Francisco lifestyle, it offers "Style@Work" seminars to various companies and work places in Metro Manila.

In recent years, the concept of "Friday casual" has evolved into "business casual." What was once a once-a-week opportunity to dress down has become a daily event that has firmly entrenched itself into the business world. However, most people in the office have failed to distinguish between a weekend plain casual and the more proper office casual. The purpose of Style@Work focuses on the new paradigm of the business look, from how others perceive it to how individuals and organizations achieve it.

DOCKERS STYLE@ WORK
Ms. Olen Lim (right), Dockers Style@ Work facilitator is seen here conducting the seminar to provide information on the application of Business Casual as an acceptable practice in organizations.This one was held for the Aboitiz employees.

The Style@Work seminar assists in creating a casual look that still conforms to professional standards. It offers the most up-to-date guidelines for recognized business casual attire. The participants will be shown examples through a fashion presentation of the latest collection from Dockers San Francisco. Participants will be armed with fashion-forward sense and take the concepts that they have learned in the seminar and wear business casual attire without compromising their professional bearing.

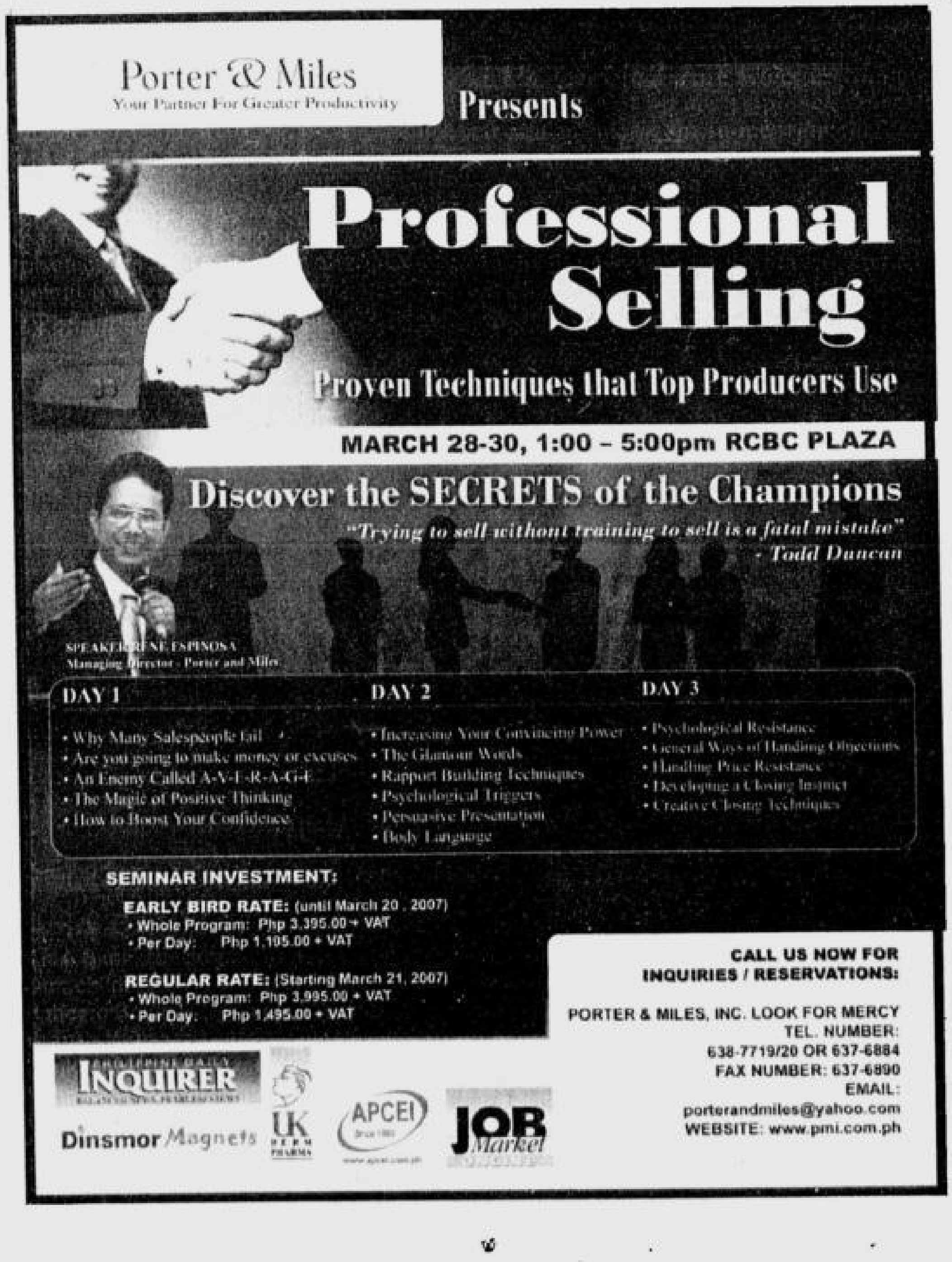
The seminar is conducted by AICI-certified Professional Image, Protocol and Etiquette Consultant Olen Juarez-Lim. Style@Work identifies the three levels of business casual attire — classic, smart, and relaxed — and use each level of business casual to support them in achieving their professional goals. It also teaches participants to understand how to select the appropriate level of business casual for every situation and avoid the top ten business casual image breakers that can sabotage career. Office workers will discover which business casual looks top executives consider "inappropriate." The seminar also includes the "levels" of business casual, the selection process of suitable clothing and accessories, and building a casual wardrobe based on an individual's existing corporate clothing and accessories.

The goal of Dockers San Francisco in creating Style@Work for the workforce is to provide information on the application of business casual as an acceptable practice in organizations and when applied, leads to a more effective communications and higher employee morale. It is also important to mention the benefits to an individual's wardrobe budget.

A mini-fashion will present a makeover of chosen participants. Goody bags and raffle prizes will also be given away. Dockers San Francisco apparel will be on sale at the venues where Style@Work are held.

AMA BANK
CELEBRATES ITS 54th ANNIVERSARY WITH CHILDREN FROM
Missionaries of Charity
Tayuman, Manila
FEBRUARY 10 2007

AMA BANK CELEBRATED 54
AMA Bank, the largest used car loan bank in the country, celebrated its 54th anniversary with children from Missionaries of Charity last Feb. 10. Shown are (from left) AVP Roberto Bombasi, VP Edgardo Hugo, AVP Raquel Magkamit, VP Eduardo Apacible, Branch Manager Lourdes Quitoriano, Private Banking Manager Eugenio Francisco, Private Banking Manager Juanita Ong, Senior Manager Honorata Rumbawa, EVP/COO Alejandro Soliman, SAVP Ma. Fe Sinoro, AVP Monina Javier, Private Banking Manager Ma. Carolina Lamasan, AVP Elma Lungca and Branch Manager Ma. Luisa Almazan.


Porter & Miles
Your Partner For Greater Productivity
Presents
Professional Selling
Proven Techniques that Top Producers Use
MARCH 28-30, 1:00 – 5:00pm RCBC PLAZA
Discover the SECRETS of the Champions
"Trying to sell without training to sell is a fatal mistake"
- Todd Duncan
SPEAKER RENE ESPINOSA
Managing Director - Porter and Miles

DAY 1
- Why Many Salespeople fail
- Are you going to make money or excuses
- An Enemy Called A-V-E-R-A-G-E
- The Magic of Positive Thinking
- How to Boost Your Confidence

DAY 2
- Increasing Your Convincing Power
- The Glamour Words
- Rapport Building Techniques
- Psychological Triggers
- Persuasive Presentation
- Body Language

DAY 3
- Psychological Resistance
- General Ways of Handling Objections
- Handling Price Resistance
- Developing a Closing Instinct
- Creative Closing Techniques

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CIC partners with PSI to assist more Filipinos

A WORKING AGREEMENT between Canadian Immigration Consultancy (CIC) and Canadian-based Philippine Services Inc is taking place to facilitate qualified workers go to Canada. With the help of Philippine Services, Inc, going to Canada is made easier.

Bringing Filipinos to Canada has been the realm of CIC for more than a decade. It has helped thousands of Filipinos migrate to Canada. Our record speaks for itself.

PSI banks on the expertise of CIC in facilitating Filipinos www.go2canada.com in order to make this process viable. The combined force of CIC and PSI will give Filipino skilled workers a chance to live and work in Canada. This is a win-win arrangement.

Experience has shown that it takes years to get an immigrant visa. With this new PSI arrangement, there is a possibility of landing in Canada within a short span of time. Through PSI, it boasts of a total solution — fast-track processing, a chance to live and work in Canada; and an available job.

Canada has room for you

The current labor market situation in Canada makes qualified workers more marketable. With its aging and limited workforce, Canadian employers would find a big relief in hiring Filipino workers to Canada. Where companies are in dire need of qualified workers, Filipino skilled workers who are known for their industriousness and competence can really integrate into the Canadian labor system.

Find out how you can at www.go2canada.com. See us during the CIC-PSI Partnership Launching on March 31, at the CIC Seminar Room, G/F Uniwide Coastal Mall, Tambo, Paranaque. Event begins at 10am. Be part of this milestone.

For more information, please email us at info@philippineservices.com or ads@go2canada.com.

The ACS-De La Salle partnership

ADVANCED CONTACT SOLUTIONS, Inc (ACS), pioneer and leader in the Philippine call centre/business processing outsourcing industry recently signed a memorandum of agreement with De La Salle Lipa donating a fully equipped speech laboratory to the said University. Named ACS Training Academy, the laboratory and the future training programs in the said facility shall be made available to both ACS and DLSL associates.

Present in the MOA Signing Ceremony held last March 2, were ACS President and CEO Victor Endaya, Roland Gaerlan (VP for Business Development), Sherwin Sangrador (Administration Manager), Aquiles Torres (Administration Supervisor), and Mary Grace Cave (HR Senior Supervisor).

DLSL top administrators present on that day were Juan Lozano (Executive Vice President), Rex Torrecampo (VPAD) Dr. Corazon Abansi (VPAR), Alice Botardo (Dean), Merlita Medallon (Dean), Erick Martinez (Dean for Student Services) and Randolph Clet (DLSL Student Government President).

ACS and DLSL share their commitment to professional education. Through this strategic partnership, both parties were able to advance their mission of excellence. The facility and trainings that will be conducted in ACS Training Academy shall provide leverage in improving the English communication skills of both DLSL students and ACS employees.

Advanced Contact Solutions, Inc. is a 6,000 seat call center with BPO capabilities which services Philippine, US, Australian and Canadian clients for customer service, technical help desk, troubleshooting, telemarketing among many others.

Mind Mapping® your way to 'The Heart of Public Speaking'

PUBLIC SPEAKING HAS NEVER been an easy feat, even for someone who is considered to be a veritable expert on the subject matter. Unlike everyday conversations where mindless chatter is considered acceptable, speaking before an audience requires a great deal of preparation, concentration and self-confidence. After all, the audience can be very discerning individuals, who may regard the smallest of mistakes as mortal sins, since it impedes on their learning.

What does it take to become an effective public speaker? Does it really require detailed preparations or can one wing it with only humor and know-how at hand? How can a speaker transform a seemingly boring topic into an interesting and thought-provoking one? Author Raju Mandhyan strives to answer these questions and more, with his book entitled "The Heart of Public Speaking".

Mandhyan's vast experience in public speaking is evident in his book, as manifested by his thorough list of requirements to be considered when delivering a public presentation. One cannot help but be amazed by his superb attention to detail, because he takes into consideration even seemingly mundane aspects that later turn out to be key factors in the success of a presentation.

The book was also written in an almost conversational manner, as if the author was just sitting beside the reader on a couch, making it a very easy read. And thanks to the author's anecdotes, the book gains that distinct personal touch, unlike other instructional books that tend to become too cold and technical.

"The Heart of Public Speaking" is a must-read for everyone, especially those who are engaged in the customer-centric industries. More than just being a guide to delivering public speeches, Mandhyan and his book gives us the opportunity to master one of life's most important lessons: become the best person one can be.

For details of Mandhyan's work log on to www.mandhyan.com or call 8970900.

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- Can work with minimal supervision

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- 6 months to one year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations systems like Windows XP and Windows 2000/MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email Client, Adobe products, Troubleshooting Skills, Interpersonal & Communication Skills.
- Knowledge in network

HR CLERK
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- With at least 6 months experience in recruitment or benefits process
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THIS RARE SEMINAR COULD BE THE TURNING point of your salespeople in selling. Discover the unconventional tools and techniques that will empower your people to make them more productive. If your people will grasp even half of what will be taught in this session, there will be a remarkable change in their performance. Don't miss this turning-point event on March 28-30, 1 – 5p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas

The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Mr. Rene Espinosa, one of the country's top sales and motivational trainers. He is a frequent resource speaker of sales conventions / rallies and in-house training.

Modules for this workshop: Day 1 – Awaken the Champion in You; Day 2 – Sales Presentation Magic; Day 3 – Handling Objections and Closing More Sales. Registering for one day only is allowed, but people are encouraged to attend the whole program.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Aimee at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Limited seats only.

NFA-FDC conducts seminar on Uncertainty Measurements in Food Microbiology Testing

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY - FOOD Development Center invites interested parties to a seminar-workshop on Uncertainty Measurements in Food Microbiology Testing: Principles and Practice on March 29-30 at the FDC Compound, Taguig City.

The seminar aims to guide participants on how to perform and evaluate measurement of uncertainty in microbiological analysis. The seminar involves familiarization with the basic statistical concepts and procedures to understand the factors in uncertainty measurement such as sample dispersion and distribution and variations arising from the various operations in microbiological analysis.

The principal lecturer for the seminar is FDC's visiting consultant Dr. Manuel M. Garcia, a reknowned microbiologist and food safety expert. Garcia has conducted workshops on HACCP and rapid tests in Asia, Australia, China, Latin America and North America. He's been a recipient of the Presidential Award for Outstanding Filipino Overseas twice.

The course fee is set at P5,000 per person inclusive of a seminar manual, lunches, snacks and a shuttle service to and from the Ayala Center in Makati. Participants are encouraged to make early reservations and payment of the required fees. Checks must be made payable to the NFA-FDC.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Amelia S. Bautista of the NFA-FDC, FTI Complex, Tagig City at telephone numbers 838-4014; 838-4561; 838-4478 and fax numbers 838-4692 and 838-4016 to 17.

PMAP GMM on March 28

PMAP PRESIDENT MARK GO IS HAPPY TO announce that DOLE Secretary Art Brion will be the guest speaker in PMAP's 524th General Membership Meeting (GMM). Speaking on the topic "Alternative Approaches to Labor Relations," Sec. Brion will be imparting members with valuable insights on handling negotiations considering that this will be a year of CBA renewals.

On the said GMM, PMAP will also launch its 31st Awards Program which gives recognition to the outstanding Employer of the Year, the Personnel Manager of the Year, and the Personnel Program of the Year. These annual awards are given out for remarkable achievements that measure up to the high standards of PMAP.

Also, not to miss is the HR Toolbox portion which features take home lessons for HR practitioners. This coming GMM's presenter is Mr. Joey A. Bermudez, President of Chinatrust Banking Corporation.

March 28 GMM will be held at the Dusit Hotel Nikko from 4-6 p.m. Fees for the event are set at Php 800 for PMAP members and Php 900 for non-PMAP members. For further details, interested parties may contact the PMAP professional staff at telephone numbers 726-1581/88/32 or through email: pmap@pmap.org.ph.

Treasury Officer

Responsibilities

The position carries out analytical and research work to support ADB's financial planning, financial policy formulation and its implementation in relation to the asset and liability management (ALM) operations of ordinary capital resources (OCR), Asian Development Fund (ADF) and other funds; supports the preparation of Management reports and Board Papers; and contributes in improving work processes.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to a Senior Treasury Specialist.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Banking, Business Administration or other related disciplines preferably with a professional qualification in Finance and/or Accounting.
- At least 5 years experience in related fields such as ALM, risk management, treasury management, financial policy analysis and financial accounting; with understanding of ALM and risk models, financial accounting and overall financial operations of and financial analysis of institutions similar to ADB.
- Proficiency with computer software in common use for financial analysis, planning and reporting and specialized Treasury-related software; solid understanding of relevant Treasury and strategic policies, guidelines and reporting formats.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English; proven supervisory and interpersonal skills; in-depth understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose.
- Solid knowledge of ALM procedures, practices and tools, financial analyses techniques, international accounting standards, financial instruments and related transactions processes, international banking practices and capital markets as required; knowledge of the financial structures, capabilities, limitations and outputs of the financial application systems as well as its interface with the funding, loan, cash, and general accounting systems.
- Ability to analyze and understand financial/risk implications of new financial instruments; ability to exercise independent judgment and effect financial analysis of a non-standard nature.
- Ability to solve problems and prioritize information based on its materiality and detail-oriented data; demonstrates creativity and innovation in the performance of task.
- A very good team player with an ability to handle highly confidential information.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO07-049(4)-TDFP** and **job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **9 April 2007.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

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Invites potential candidates for the following positions:

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- Male/Female, 25-30 years old; graduate of any four-year business or finance course.
- With hands-on exposure on compben research and analysis, salary & benefits planning.
- With good communication and analytical skills.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS MANAGER

- Male/Female, 30-40 years old; graduate of any four-year business or finance course.
- Must have at least 3 years managerial work experience handling all compensation & benefits functionalities; strong in salary planning & administration.
- With very good leadership skills.

ACCOUNTANTS/CPA/SENIOR AUDITORS

- Male/Female, must be CPA.
- Must have exposure on any one of the following areas: internal audit, cost or general accounting, financial analysis or planning, occupying a senior position (supervisor, officer or manager level).
- Fresh Graduates or CPAs are also welcome to apply.
- With excellent communication and analytical skills.

PRODUCT/BRAND MANAGERS

- Male/Female, 25-35 years old; graduate of any business course.
- Must have very good grounded experience on product and brand management preferably from a manufacturing environment.
- With very good interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.

TECHNICAL LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER/DIRECTOR

- Male/Female, 32-45 years old; graduate of technical or engineering course.
- Strong exposure on Technical Training is a MUST. Must have led a technical training team as a manager or director in developing modules, course outlines and developmental plans.
- With very good communication, presentation and leadership abilities.
- Interested to travel locally and internationally.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR

- Male/Female, 32-45 years old; graduate of any four-year course pref. with post-graduate units/degree.
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- FEMALE, 5'4" in height, between 21 to 25 years old;
- Possesses excellent interpersonal, presentation and English communication skills both written and verbal.
- Highly proficient in MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Highly organized and systematic.

Qualified applicants will be trained by ICAO accredited Training Center(s) and/or recognized AVSEC Training Institution in the Philippines. Successful applicants shall oversee all aviation security and quality control tasks as required by the ASP and NCASP to meet and sustain ICAO Annex 17 Standard 3.4.7 at the airport level.

Qualified applicants are invited to submit personally the following:

1. Resume / Personal Data Sheet (PDS);
2. Recent 2x2 picture;
3. Latest Community Tax Certificate;
4. Photocopy of Diploma or Transcript of Records;
5. Photocopy of Certificate of training / seminars attended;
6. Certificate of Eligibility Rating (CSC), if any;
7. NBI Clearance.

Bring original copy of item nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 for authentication to:

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Unit C & D, 21/F Petron Megaplaza Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IS ON MARCH 30, 2007

Bayer CropScience

BAYER

Our Marketing Group is in need of:

DISTRICT PROMO MANAGER/ SUPERVISING CROP SPECIALIST

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:

- *Graduate of BS Agriculture, Agribusiness or Marketing Course*

Experience:

- *For DPM, with minimum 5 years supervisory experience in promotions, marketing and/or sales of Crop Protection and other Agricultural inputs*
- *Preferably with Excellent Track Record of Promoting, Demand-Creation and/ or Sales of Crop Protection Products or Other Agricultural Inputs*

Skills:

- *With Excellent Management, Interpersonal, Communication and Leadership Skills*
- *Willing to be assigned in North-Western Mindanao*
- *Male, 24-38 years old, with Valid Driver's License, Computer Literate*

ASSOCIATE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:

- *Graduate of any 4-year course, Agriculture background an advantage, but not required*

Experience:

- *At least 3 years experience in Brand Management/Advertising (preferably in Consumer)*
- *Good Grasp of Copy and Communications Plan Development*
- *Working Knowledge in Media, Market Research, Sales and Financials*

Skills:

- *With Good Project Management and Coordination Skills*
- *Strategic Thinker, Creative and Results-Oriented*
- *Excellent Communication Skills, Teamplayer with Effective Leadership Potential*
- *Male, 24-28 years old, with Valid Driver's License, Computer Literate*

MARKET RESEARCH PLANNER

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:

- *Graduate of any 4-year course preferably Statistcs, Economics or Communications Research*

Experience:

- *At least 3 years experience in Market Research, with Good Grasp of Qualitative and Quantitative Research*
- *Good Knowledge of Statistical Software like SPSS*
- *Excellent Ability to Facilitate Group Discussions and Make Recommendations on Research Methods. Coordinate with Research Agencies and Analyze Results*

Skills:

- *Excellent Communication Skills & Strong Analytical Skills*
- *Team player with Effective Leadership Potential*
- *Male, 25-30 years old, with Valid Driver's License, Computer Literate*

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES are requested to e-mail their resumé with pictures at cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, and Calamba City not later than March 30, 2007.

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- Team player, result oriented & has good sense of responsibility

PROGRAMMERS (2)

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- Bachelor graduate of Computer Programming or equivalent
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- Knowledgeable in Java & JSP is a plus but not necessary
- Have some background in database such as MS Access, My SQL
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

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Candidates must be fluent in English and must be able to type at least 60 wpm. Microsoft Word proficiency or concurrent enrollment in Microsoft Word certification courses is required. Certificate of completion might be necessary; Medical terminology knowledge helpful. Medical or legal professionals, college graduates or graduating college students preferred, with backgrounds in English, Journalism or health-related fields.

For job consideration, resumé and salary history must be submitted in person at the Renaissance School of Science and Technology, Sitio Paglabas, Morong, Rizal.

For information contact Candy or Edna at 691-6065, 691-6224 Cell # 0910-847-3281 or 0920-2870610. Only completed applications will be considered for job interviews.

Successful candidates will undergo training with pay from 5/21/07 to 6/1/07 by a USA representative.

email: **chatty_214@yahoo.com**
alessandro_guiyangco@yahoo.com

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bio-strata
pharmaceuticals, inc.

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- Knowledgeable with drug formularies
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MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Male or Female, 25-30 years of age
- College Graduate (2-4 Year Course)
- Must be Persistent and Hardworking
- Dynamic and Willing to Learn
- People Oriented with Pleasing Personality
- 2 years Experience in Sales an advantage
- Territories to be filled: Pampanga/ Rizal Province/ Pasig-Taguig/ Alabang-Parañaque

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101 SHAW BLVD. PASIG CITY
632-0265/ 631-6726
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NOTE: Incomplete requirements will not be prioritized

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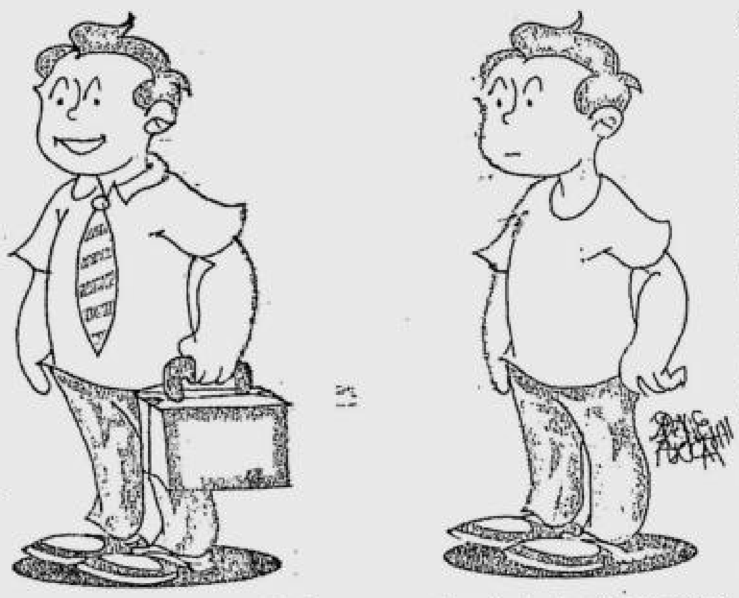
E-mail: workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph.

Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

What you need to know about a performance appraisal

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor



IF YOU ARE NEW ON THE JOB, you are probably not aware what a performance appraisal is. As the name suggests, the performance appraisal is a periodic review of your development and progress at work. Usually, it is first discussed with you before you reach your sixth-month probation.

Managers usually make sure that an evaluation is done before your sixth month because the law indicates that once you reach your sixth months on the job, you automatically become a regular employee. After the probationary period, a performance evaluation maybe done once or twice a year.

For smaller companies, a performance appraisal may be administered more informally, like through a chat. Sometimes it is not done at all. For your own sake, it would be good if you yourself ask for an evaluation. Following are some key areas for discussion:

Past performance. Ask your boss how you have done over the last few months.

It would be beneficial to get feedback not only from your supervisor but also from your peers, assistants and customers as well. This is called a 360-degree assessment. It helps provide a well-rounded assessment of performance. However, the information is not that easy to gather. As such, you may have to rely on your supervisor's word.

Job assignment. A discussion of your current job assignment allows you to clarify whatever uncertainties you may have. It is also best to enhance communication with your boss by discussing potential pitfalls and problems as well as opportunities and ideas.

In bigger companies, a job description is usually provided. If you do not have one yet, try to clearly define, with your boss, what your role is and what his expectations are from you.

Career path. If the opportunity allows, it may also be a good idea to discuss future growth opportunities in your place of work. It is a very important factor in job satisfaction. An understanding of professional growth opportunities available to you will help you plan and look forward to the future with gladness and anticipation.

Sexual harassment of men on the rise

WASHINGTON—A RECORD number of men reported being sexually harassed in the workplace last year, according to the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

Newly released data from the EEOC showed that 15.4 percent of the 12,025 charges of sexual harassment in fiscal year 2006 were filed by men, as opposed to 11.6 percent a decade ago.

Although the data released does not indicate whether the harassers were male, typically that is the case, experts say.

"There are positive changes taking place in the workplace that are allowing and encouraging men to report these claims," said Danny Baker, of the Washington-based Gender Public Advocacy Coalition. "This is also related to an increasing dialogue about what we call male-on-male sexual harassment."

He added that contrary to expectation, the people filing the claims as well as the harassers are usually heterosexual males.

"It's mostly about gender stereotypes ..., about policing codes of gender in the workplace," Baker said.

An employee, for example, could be harassed by a male coworker and called effeminate or a sissy, not because of that person's sexual orientation but in reference to established codes of masculinity, Baker said.

Sexual harassment occurs when one is subjected to "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature," according to the EEOC.

Baker and other experts warned that the fact that more complaints are being filed by men may mean that victims are more willing to report discrimination, rather than an increase in actual instances of sexual harassment.

The EEOC also reported that 75,768 discrimination charges against private sector employers were filed last year, the first increase since 2002. The majority of those charges were based on race (27,238) and retaliation (22,555).

Other charges were based on age (16,548), disability (15,575), national origin (8,327) and religion (2,541). Individuals may base their charges on multiple types of discrimination.

"These figures tell us that discrimination remains a persistent problem in the 21st century workplace," EEOC chair Naomi Earp said in a statement.

AFP

How to like writing reports and submitting these on time

I'M A SALES REPRESENTATIVE and I like sales as a career. I like the products I sell and the company I work for. My big problem is, I don't like to make and submit reports but my boss says that this is an important part of my job. I disagree with him. The most important part of a sales rep's job is selling and doing collections, right? I'm always late with my reports and he criticizes my reports as both late and incomplete. My rating on this aspect pulls down my overall performance appraisal rating. What do you think I should do? How can I convince my boss not to be too strict on reports?

Mr. Bewildered

What you should do soonest is to change your attitude towards writing reports and begin to see how submitting good quality reports will greatly benefit you, not just your boss and your company. If you are convinced about how these reports will benefit you, you will like to and make time to do them.

Writing reports is part of a sales rep's job, not just selling and collecting payments which enable you to get your commission from actual sales. In whatever company you work for, a selling job will always require you to write and submit reports. Someday, as your career progresses and you will be promoted to supervisory/management position in sales, you will be requiring your subordinates to submit high quality reports on time as part of your monitoring task and as one of the bases for evaluating their performance. You will be using data from these reports for your planning, strategizing, and decision-making.

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Josie O. Santamaria

There are many reports that people who work in the field have to do; each one is important, both for you and your company. The kind and number of reports required and the schedule of submission vary from company to company. The usual reports include the daily field report or weekly field report, the expense report (without which you will not get your reimbursements on time), and others.

Value of reports

The daily field report enables you to give information on your coverage of your customers and their feedback about your products and/or service, promotional/selling activities/strategies of your competition, and the like.

This important information is used by sales management or by the product management group to plan and design strategies to counter these competitive activities and to increase market share. This report provides the link between you and what is happening in your territory, on one hand, and the head office, on the other hand.

It is obvious how your daily field report benefits your boss and your company. How does it benefit you? Your reports reveal the kind of person you are and your potentials to advance in your career.

In addition to good sales and collection efficiency, without which it would be difficult for you to retain your job and advance in your career, good quality reports help increase your visibility to management.

Your reports communicate to management if you are on top of the situation in your territory, the problems you encounter and how you solve them. Thru your reports, management can gauge how well you analyze and manage situations in your territory. The quality of your decisions or recommendations in dealing with these situations will tell about your capabilities and potentials. These reports will give them an idea about your efficiency, your work habits and attitudes, your intrapreneurship (or the initiatives you take to gain profits for the company), your "malasakit", loyalty and commitment to your company.

Your report, however, must be of good quality to be useful. I'm sure that the following standards of good reports have been communicated to you: accuracy, brevity, completeness, timeliness, etc.

Let me tell you that there is no job where all the tasks are to your liking.

Ask your boss what he or she likes/dislikes about his or her job to know what I mean. Ask your parents, if they are working. As an example, I like to teach students in a classroom, but dislike correcting exam papers, making grades and reporting these grades. But the tasks I dislike are very much part of my teaching job and career.

Managing your time daily and ensuring that you write down in your work diary or input into your computer all the activities you did for the day, the results of these activities, and the information you gathered, will make it easy for you to summarize them as your weekly field report. If you keep a daily record of what you do, you will have no problem recalling them at the end of the week, enabling you to submit your report on time. This will mean self-discipline as regards reducing the time you spend before the TV and/or computer. What you do daily will become a habit that will be easy for you to do later. This good work habit of submitting reports on time, or, better yet, before the time, is likely to spread over to punctuality in other matters such as coming to work, keeping appointments, etc. You will feel good about and proud of yourself.

Motivate yourself

Motivate yourself further to submit quality reports on time by rewarding yourself with activities during the weekend that you enjoy doing, such as bringing your family to the mall, or going to the beach with your friends, seeing movies, doing computer games, etc. Engage in these pleasurable activities only after finishing writing the quality reports by Friday evening, ready to submit the hard copy or send by e-mail on Monday. God bless you.

(The author is a management consultant, coach and counselor, and president of Career Systems, Inc., a management, organization and human resource development company.)

DOT seminar to help jobseekers get employed

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) will hold a seminar at the March 28-29 Tourism Jobs Fair in Mandaue City, Cebu to help increase the chances of jobseekers in getting employed.

The seminar covers such topics as Personality Development, Creating a Winning Impression and The Employment System for March 28, and A Tourism Career, Your Guide to the Lucrative World of Tourism for March 29.

Constituting the Creating a Winning Impression are tips on how to write the curriculum vitae; questions, answers and strategies in job interviews; taking and passing the examination; packaging oneself (dressing up, accessorizing, makeup and hairstyle); and attitude in the workplace.

The seminar on The Employment System will discuss the government sector (Civil Service Commission and Government Service Insurance System), and the private sector (Department of Labor and Employment and Social Security System).

Personality Development will tackle tips on how to develop skills in assertive communication and public relations (exceptional customer service).

On Tourism Career, the topics cover the history and future of the tourism industry, its various sectors such as sports and wellness (spa, adventure and medical tourism), MICE (meetings, incentive, conventions and exhibitions), hospitality (hotels, resorts, restaurants), and transportation (land, maritime, aviation), and the job forecasts, skills, internships and trainings involved.

Job applicants can register online at www.tourismjobs.ph and onsite at the Cebu International Convention Center (CICC) on March 28 and March 29 to meet the employers. The TJF runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The jobseekers must bring their IDs and dress in smart casual. Free shuttle service to the CICC will be provided by Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Z. Ouano. Pickup points are at the SM City Cebu parking lot and Mandaue City Cultural and Sports Complex Reclamation Area Centro.

All information shall be stored in a database that employers can access all-year round and where applicants can update their resumés through their UINs (unique identification numbers).

A UIN is assigned to an applicant upon entering his personal profile at www.tourism jobs.ph.

For jobseekers who participated in the 1st TJF last year, their UINs are still valid and can be used in the 2nd TJF.

"We hope to gather some 200 employers/exhibitors and 5,000 visitor-applicants, create matches between them, and generate as much on-the-spot employment as possible," Durano pointed out.

The TJF is designed to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda, which includes the creation of 6 to 10 million jobs as a government priority.

'Womanpower' today

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE FOCUS ON THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY IN today's selected Gospel verse brings to my mind the increasing number of women in the workforce in almost every society in today's world. The number of female workers seems to equal if not surpass that of the male even in the kinds of jobs usually taken up by the latter; the quality of work performance of the former could also compete very well with that of its male counterpart. The traditional meaning of "manpower" in discussions about work and business could now very well include the concept of "womanpower"; if we are at liberty we would introduce the use of the term. But perhaps it is enough for now for the society to acknowledge the active role and significant contribution of the female workforce.

Some feminine traits which may be considered as weakness in the workplace, such as, delicateness, attentiveness to details, resilience and others—could be valuable to a precise, refined and consistent work performance. The woman's contribution in the world of work would not only be in terms of the quantity and quality of work output it brings to society, but I believe, also in terms of adding the inner value and meaning of work which would complete the usual harsh, rough and rugged aspects work and business. The presence of the woman in the workplace should be something more of an asset than a liability; more inspiring than depressing, and more complete than inadequate.

With the mind and heart of Jesus, we, including the women themselves, should find the proper and rightful place of "womanpower" in society and in the world of work, so that its increasing presence in our midst would be seen as a blessing rather than curse. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

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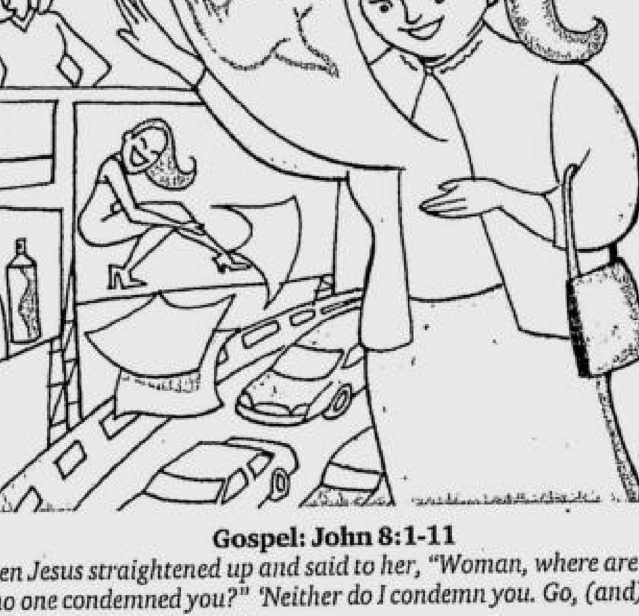

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 'Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more.'

Why blame women?

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE GOSPEL STORY ABOUT THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY reminds me of certain problematic situations involving our "kababayans" working abroad. We all know the "hidden costs" of a breadwinner leaving home to seek a "better" future for the family. How often have we heard of the spouses getting into illicit love affairs due to the separation forced upon them by circumstances? The thing is, the woman seems to always get the blame when an adulterous union takes place.

If the husband who remains in the country takes a mistress, the wife who's working like a slave abroad is blamed (most likely by her in-laws): "Well, you leave your husband behind, so what do you expect him to do, he's a lonely healthy male!" His in-laws, meanwhile, blame his mistress: *"Nakakahiya ka! Bakit mo pinatulan eh alam mong me asawa?"* (Shame on you! Why did you take him when you know he's married?) If the wife working abroad takes a lover (whether male or female), practically the whole world is ready to stone her—with the probable exception of the people who benefit from her largesse (read: chocolates, cosmetics, clothes, cash, etc.).

What is it about our culture that makes us too readily blame the woman in cases like these? Our men's macho mentality and/or our women's masochistic tendencies? Jesus is supposed to have freed us from unjust structures and ways of thinking, but it seems we're still so like the men in those times who were ready to gang up on the adulterous woman. Don't you find it ridiculous that our society seems only too eager to scold the woman who after all is but half of the supposedly evil partnership? (Hello!, the woman caught in adultery didn't do it alone, did she?) Perhaps, once we uncover the reasons behind this lopsided view of man-woman relationships, we will have fewer of these unjust situations. Perhaps. *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

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Qualifications and Experience

Diploma or Degree in Industrial Instrumentation and/or Electronic Engineering including computer related subjects or an equivalent qualification. Minimum of 3 years' experience in Power Plant Control & Instrumentation Systems Maintenance. ***In addition to general instrumentation & PLC, the candidate should have a good experience in one (at least) of the above Gas/Steam Turbine Control System.***

2. ELECTRICIAN - POWER (Ref: EMD/P/2007)

Job Description

Applicants should have a good general Industrial Electrical/Electronics engineering background, including electrical equipment used in heavy industrial and power plant. The successful candidates must be conversant with combined cycle power generators, High voltage distribution system, Electrical protection systems, Power conversion Rectifiers, Power transformers, multi-flash desalination units, waste heat boilers, deaerators, and software control systems.

The candidate will be expected to perform following functions in accordance with the safety procedures and plant operational requirements with minimum direction and supervision:

- Trouble-shoot, repair, re-commission and maintain efficiently a wide range of electrical machinery, equipment and electrical instruments to ensure efficient operation and reduce production down time.
- Testing, fault finding, diagnosing failures on electrical plant & equipment and monitor any repeated breakdowns & make an approved modification to resolve the problems by attending to all equipment breakdowns and planned maintenance work.
- Order spare parts from warehouse and maintain records of all maintenance work completed using the computerized maintenance system
- Receive, read and understand drawings and job instructions from immediate superior.

Qualifications and Experience

Diploma or degree in Electrical/Electronics Engineering, including computer related subjects or an equivalent qualification. Post apprenticeship and a minimum of 3 years' experience in a similar position (in a Power Plant or equivalent heavy industrial plant with exposure preferably in high voltage electrical environment). Must be familiar with all maintenance tools, electrical test equipment.

Preference will be given to candidates who have experience on following.

- ABB PSR2 type PLC controllers and associated HMI systems
- Alstom combined cycle gas & steam generators and associated CMI boiler electrics. Alstom analogue and digital AVR
- GIS 132kV switchgear ABB and Toshiba make
- GE Harris Scada systems

3. MAINTENANCE MECHANIC – POWER (Ref: MMD/P/2007)

Job description

- Trouble-shoot, repair and maintain efficiently a wide range of machinery and equipment to ensure efficient operation and reduce production down time.
- Attend to all equipment breakdowns and planned maintenance work with minimum direction and supervision.
- Technically assess the requirement of allocated jobs and select the necessary tools and equipment to complete such work.
- Using the computerized maintenance system orders the spare parts from warehouse and maintains records of all maintenance work completed.
- Ensure that all maintenance work is carried out in accordance with the safety procedures and plant operational requirements.
- Monitor any repeated breakdown and takes proper modification to resolve the problem.
- Provide on the job training to new craftsmen in order to equip them with the necessary skills to be able to carry out maintenance repair work as planned.

Qualifications and Experience

The knowledge and experience required in the position is that gained through previous experience working in Power Station or equivalent heavy industrial plant with exposure preferably in The Combine Power Plant mechanical related equipment (Gas Turbine, Steam Turbine, Heat Recovery Steam Generator and Desalination). Must be familiar with all maintenance tools and should have some knowledge of PCs.

Minimum 5 years' experience after completing the apprentice in a well recognized industry. Minimum education level is high school graduate and preferably with certificates related to Gas turbine overhaul.

4. INSTRUMENTATION TECHNICIAN – SMELTER (Ref:IMD/S/2007)

Job Description

Calibrates, maintains, and troubleshoot process instruments and control systems, replaces worn, damaged or failed equipment and components to support plant operations. Conducts any required inspections/post-maintenance testing of systems, equipment and components as necessary to ensure systems, equipment and components are returned to operational conditions. Performs preventive maintenance on instruments and control systems and involve in the installation and removal of piping, circuits and associated instrumentation and equipment supporting plant modifications.

Qualifications & Experience

Diploma or Degree in Industrial Instrumentation and/or Electronic Engineering including computer related subjects or an equivalent qualification.

5 years experience in a similar position. Candidate should have an excellent General Industrial Control and Instrumentation Engineering background with working experience on some of the following: PLC: Allen-Bradley ControlLogix/PLC5/SLC500, Siemens S5. SCADA/HMI: RSView, PanelView, and Networking techniques. Controllers: Analogue and Digital Programmable, Moore Mycro, Hartmann and Braun, Eurotherm, ABB Kent. Mass Flowmeters. Weighers: Weightronics, Avery Electronic Load Cell System, Integrated Belt Weighing, Programmable Weighers, Schenck Weighing Systems. Analysers: X-ray Fluorescence/Diffraction Analysers, Spectrometry Gas Analysis, Chromatography, and all Analysers relative to Industrial Water Treatment using computer-based systems. In addition, they should have a good working knowledge on Microsoft Windows '98, Windows 2000, or Windows NT. Knowledge of C++/Visual Basic will be an added advantage. Candidates should also be aware of software engineering techniques.

5. ELECTRICIAN – SMELTER (Ref: EMD/S/2007)

Job description

Use test equipment (Megger, Multimeter, Laptop PC); read schematic diagrams, diagnose and repair faults on a wide range of equipment. Assess situations and take appropriate corrective decisions. Read and interpret electrical wiring diagrams, troubleshoot, modify and maintain machineries. Root Cause Failure Analysis (RCFA) and Reliability Centered Maintenance (RCM) techniques. Check and modify PLC programs.

Qualifications and Experience

Higher Diploma in Electronics or Electrical and / or Bachelor's degree in Science
3 years' in electrical maintenance of industrial plants.
Bulk material processes i.e., automated material conveyance systems.
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Electrical Control Centre (MCC)
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Preference will be given to candidates having experience in Smelter, Steel, Iron foundries, network control/IMS/SCADA/CMAC Allen Bradley & or Siemens PLC Multi Purpose Cranes, Frequency Converter drives and shift work experience.

6. MAINTENANCE MECHANIC – SMELTER (Ref: MMD/S/2007)

Job description

Experience in some or all of the following smelter plant equipment:
Multi-purpose electric overhead travelling cranes,
Bulk material conveying and handling systems,
Smelting and treatment furnaces,
Large mechanical motor drives, controllers & mixers.
Fully automated casting equipment & industrial saws.

Qualifications & Experience

Diploma or degree in Mechanical Engineering, including computer related subjects or an equivalent qualification.

5 years' experience in a similar position. The applicants should have a good general Industrial Mechanical Maintenance background, including mechanical equipment used in heavy industrial plant i.e., Mechanical Conveying Systems, fully automated hydraulic and pneumatic systems. The candidate must have the ability to read schematic drawings and excellent knowledge of fault finding and repair of the equipment listed above. Experience in Hydraulics/Pneumatic is essential.

General

The desired age group is 25-35 years. Applicants should be able to speak, read and write English to a good standard and should have excellent interpersonal skills and assertive personalities. Computer literacy is essential. An aptitude for team work (including shift work is also essential).

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With two years experience are now required for all specialties including Medical/ Surgical, Neonatal and Pediatric ICUs, Recover Room, Pediatrics, CVT, Cardiac, Oncology, Hematology, BMT, Clinics, Bone Bank

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Staff Nurse in the assigned specialty, preferably with St. Luke's Medical Center, Philippine Heart Center, Makati Medical Center, Manila Doctor's Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, Asian Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Cardinal Santos Medical Centre, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Hospital, ABM Sison Medical Centre (Medical City), Kidney Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Hospital, Lourdes Hospital, Capitol Medical Centre, St. James Medical Centre, Angeles Medical Centre, Cebu Doctor's Hospital, Velez Hospital-Cebu City, Iloilo Mission Hospital-Iloilo, Iloilo Doctor's Hospital, Davao Doctor's Hospital and San Pedro Hospital.

Other Vacancies

Medical Technologist (Cytogenetics)
Cardiovascular Tech (Invasive & Non-Inv) / Pharmacists / CT / MRI Tech / Radiography Tech / Respiratory Therapist / Bone Bank Tech

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must PERSONALLY register and submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate, valid PRC card, two (2) letters of reference from previous/current supervisor, No Objection Certificate (for ex-Saudi), passport copy (if available) and 1 pc. Passport size picture, between 8-5 PM or the nearest POEA Regional Extension Unit, for the issuance of KFSH Application Form and Skills Checklist. Please call 7221174/75 for further inquiries. Qualified candidates may also send in their CVs to poea_gpb@yahoo.com

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TO MAN SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF SHIPS

Our Principal ***Marlow Navigation*** is urgently needing the following positions for our modern Container vessels and bulk carriers:

Master	from US$5,115.	6 mos. Contract
Chief Mate	from US$3,795.	8 mos. Contract
2nd Mate	from US$2,640.	10 mos. Contract
3rd Mate	from US$1,584. to US$1,824.	10 mos. Contract
Chief Engr	from US$4,950.	6 mos. Contract
2nd Engr	from US$3,795.	8 mos. Contract
Electrician	from US$3,019.(w/ sea expn.)	10 mos. Contract
C/Cook	from US$1,378.to US$1,486.	10 mos. Contract
Bosun/Fitter	from US$1,105. to US$1,213.	10 mos. Contract
K/AB	from US$1,004.	10 mos. Contract
AB	from US$903.	10 mos. Contract
OS	from US$680.	10 mos. Contract

Plus Seniority Bonus

FOR CHEMICAL TANKERS

2/Off	US$2,970.-
2/Eng	US$5,780.-

Apply now and build your career with us:

Crewserve, Inc.
Rm. 401 LBH Bldg.,
1431 A. Mabini St.,
Ermita, Manila
e-mail: recruitment@crewserve.com.ph
POEA Lic. 250-SB-061604-R

Galant Maritime Services, Inc.
1002 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard,
Ermita, Manila
PIC: C/M Chito Mendoza
e-mail: recruitment_galant@marlow.com.ph
Tel. # 525-6092; 526-6888 loc 115
POEA Lic. 108-SB-091603-R

BoardWalk* an aggressive and innovative frontrunner in the Direct Selling industry engaged in clothing, footwear, bags and other fashion accessories, is urgently in need of highly qualified individuals to be a part of our continuous expansion.

SALES TRAINING DEPARTMENT HEAD:

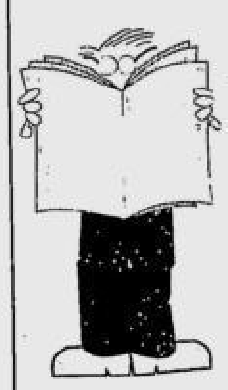
- Bachelor's / College Degree or Post Graduate / Master's Degree in Psychology, Human Resources Management, Mass Communication, Liberal Arts, or related fields;
- Excellent presentation skills and ability to communicate effectively with employees at all organizational levels;
- Three (3) years experience in relevant management post;
- Perform effective peer level reviews of curriculum and course delivery especially applicable for direct sales trainers;
- Ability to analyze data and recommend course design, methodology and structure;
- Adept in developing training modules and programs;
- Highly flexible and can adapt to a fast-paced environment;
- Preferably with direct selling experience but not necessary;
- Very high interpersonal skills and have passion for mentoring people.

HUMAN RESOURCES HEAD:

- Bachelor's / College Degree or Post Graduate / Masters Degree in Psychology, Human Resources Management, Social Sciences or its equivalent;
- Five (5) years experience as Human Resources Head or Manager in an organization with branch operational set-up;
- In depth knowledge in all facets of HR such as labor concerns, employee relations, hiring, training and evaluation;
- Excellent communication, leadership and interpersonal skills;
- Computer literate (WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT).

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume with latest 2x2 picture to our nearest branch or to: 1502-A 15th Floor West Tower, PSE Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Or email to recruitment@boardwalk.com.ph. Tel Nos. (02) 636-6321 to 23 look for Ms. Sue or Ms Arlene.

Where you find the best.



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UE

The **UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST**
College of Arts and Sciences-Caloocan Campus
is urgently looking for the following
for its **BS in TOURISM MANAGEMENT** course:

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

- Graduate of BS Tourism with a Master's degree in Business, Management or any related field
- 5 years experience in teaching in tertiary-level education
- At least 5 years in administrative capacity in Education or in Business
- Active member of a hospitality-related professional education association
- Completed a service competency training seminar or workshop

FULL-TIME/PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

- Graduate of BS Tourism with a Master's degree in Business, Management or any related field

Please bring Curriculum Vitae and Transcript of Records.

For further inquiries, applicants may contact the CAS Caloocan Dean's Office at telephone nos.: 364-1497 or 367-4572 loc. 306 or visit us at www.ue.edu.ph

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MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.

IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION PROJECT (IWSDP)

is in immediate need of the following:

Engineers
GIS Specialist
CAD Operators
Surveyors

- Engineering Graduate/Licensed Engineer
- Preferably with experience in engineering and/or construction works
- Computer literate, knowledge in Autocad an advantage
- Good in oral & written communication
- With good interpersonal skills, hardworking, reliable, resourceful, analytical, focused and flexible

Finance Analyst
Transport Coordinator
Office Assistants

- College Graduate, preferably in Accounting
- With at least 1 year experience in Finance/Administration works
- Computer literate, preferrably MS Office
- Hardworking, reliable, analytical and flexible

Survey Aides

- At least 1st year college
- With at least 6 months experience; hardworking and reliable

Qualified candidates may submit letter of application with 1x1 photo ID, comprehensive resumes, transcript of records/diploma, license & board rating, employment/training certificates, SSS ID (photo copy) and NBI clearance to:

Employment Administration, Personnel Services
MWSS Compound, Basement - Engineering Bldg.
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Look for Cristy Santiago or Emily Calayan
Tel. No. 9284280 or 9205521 loc. 3084

Submission of application is until April 11, 2007

FULL TIME HOME THERAPIST

We are looking for a full time Home Therapist, male preferred, for our 9-year-old son diagnosed with PDD-NOS. Candidate must have experience working with children with autism. Trained in the area of Speech Therapy, ABA or Special Education, willing to travel.

Excellent remuneration & fringe benefits. Minimum 2-year contract.

Interested parties can email their details to:
ehallli@gmail.com

AUTO SPORT 24 CORP.
2320 Pasong Tamo
Extension Makati City

Urgently need for:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS

- Female, Not more than 25 years old
- Accounting Graduate / Comp. Literature
  - Fresh graduate are most welcome

Please send resumé at the above address or email us at **autosport24@yahoo.com** or call 892-8181 / 892-8282

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT!

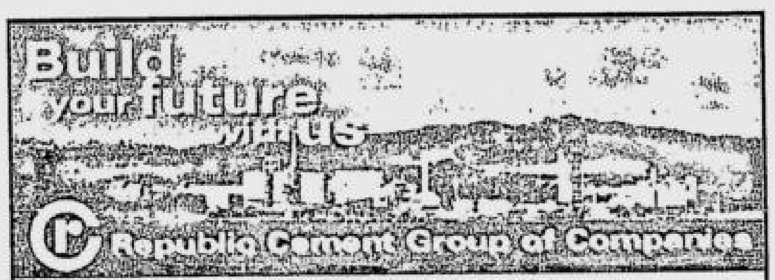
We urgently need the following:

(1) ACTUARIAL STAFF

- B.S. Mathematics graduate
- Male or Female
- Not more 25 years old
- Must possess analytical skills
- With at least one year work experience
- Proficient in Excel, Database or other database tools
- Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are welcome to apply

Apply personally with credentials at:

HR/ADMIN. DEPARTMENT
Country Bankers Life Insurance Corp.
6th Floor Country Bankers Centre
648 T.M. Kalaw Avenue, Ermita, Manila
or email: info@cblic.com



Republic Cement Group of Companies, in which French cement company Lafarge Cement is a strategic investor, is currently looking for:

CADET ENGINEERS (Ref. No. HO-CD-0207)

Requirements:

- Must be a graduate of Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical or Mining Engineering
- Must either be a fresh graduate or with 1-2 years work experience
- Must be in the top 10% of his/her graduating class or have a professional license
- Must possess leadership qualities
- Must be driven and willing to gain hands-on experience
- Preferably living near Rizal, Bulacan, or Batangas, or be

Applicants may apply electronically, quoting the **Ref. No.** and **Job Title** on the subject line. Please attach either your certificate of graduation (for fresh graduates) or transcript of records, and your resumes and email it to Macecilia.Sese@ph.lafarge.com **no later than April 15, 2007.** You may also send it through mail to **Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc., 18th Floor PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City 1226.** Please quote the Ref. No. and job title on the envelope.

LAFARGE SEMENTO

Land Administration and Management Project Phase 2 (LAMP2) is a multi-funded project with grant aid for Technical Assistance from the Australian Government and World Bank loan to the Philippines Government. The Technical Assistance Team needs

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

with the following qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant preferably with 1 year auditing and 3 years bookkeeping experience
- Familiarity with foreign funded financial management systems
- Proficient in generally accepted accounting and financial reporting principles
- Relevant experience in payroll preparation and tax remittances, particularly for personnel under a consultancy arrangement
- Familiarity with the subsidiary ledger (SL) recording and the proper SL maintenance
- Computer literate with high level of proficiency in spreadsheet and accounting software, and word processor
- Very good communications and inter-personal skills

Applicants may email their CV with cover letter and at least 2 references to palamp1@mindgate.net or fax to 9281176. The full Terms Of Reference is available upon request . **Deadline for Submission: 5:00 p.m., Friday 30 March 2007.**

LAND equity

Land Equity International contracts and manages the grant funding for Technical Assistance. Please log on to **www.landequity.com.au**, for detailed information about the company and to **www.phil-lamp.org** foe project information.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SECRETARY

An international development organization has an immediate need for a SECRETARY who will provide the entire rnage of secretarial and administrative support to one of its technical offices. The incumbent will type/draft cables, letters, memos, faxes, and other technical documents; prepare handouts and power point presentations; handle telephone calls as appropriate. He/She will receive, send out, and track required letters and other documents; perform liaison functions within the organization, with Philippine Government counterparts, contractors, and other private sector representatives. The incumbent will also asist the team in coordination of meetings and arrangement of logistics; handle the local and international travel requirements of the members of the team; maintain and update the office's files; will act as file custodian; and, will perform other duties as may be required. Minimum educational requirement is completion of secondary education. Completion of secretarial course, business school, or college, including typing, office practice, computer course is highly desirable. At least two (2) years of progessively rersponsible secretarial or clerical experience is required with one-(1) year of this experience form donor agencies, private sector, or government organizations. Excellent command of English (both written and oral); level II typing ability (40 wpm); proficiency in the use of computers (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint, e-mail, internet, etc.) including basic work operations like printer set-up, files search, virus scanning, etc., are essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health andlife insurance and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than March 30, 2007, to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

A leading mobile video development company is in.need of the following:

Video Monitoring Team Staff

- Good to Above Average English Communication Skills
- Must possess superior listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to think and decide independently
- Willingness to rotate shifts and work during Holidays, weekdays, weekends
- Have basic PC skills
- Fresh graduates / Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply
- Part-Time and Full-Time positions available
- Applicant should have completed at least 2 years of college

Programmers

- Require technical development experience with MS SQL and/or IBM DB2
- Prefer (but not required) experience with WAP, IMS, SIP, Video knowledge (MPEG, conversions to different formats like 3GP, Flash, etc...)
- Interested in making prototypes for new things like SDK for Google earth, Skype etc.
- Applicant should have completed a minimum of 4 years college degree
- At least 2 years work related experience

Please contact us at Email: pj_melissa26@yahoo.com

A stable progressive Company and a pioneer in Food Processing Industry urgently needs

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

• BS Food Technology or any closely related courses; new graduates may apply • With experience in R & D, QA and Production • Good communication skills; computer literate

FAMILY DRIVERS (stay in)

• Single, 21 to 35 years old • High School graduate • Restriction Code: 1, 2, 3.

Submit application with ID picture to:
Box QC 2007-05
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, St. Anthony's Building
891 Aurora Blvd., cor. Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City
or send your resumé to tsbenterprises@pacific.net.ph

HHIC-Phil Inc.

2/F, Lot 7, Greenwoods Park, Rizal Avenue,
Central Business District, SBFZ

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1. **SUB-CONTRACTOR MANAGER**
2. **COST CONTROLLER**
3. **WAREHOUSE STAFF**

Preferred Experience:

1. In-house subcontract management of Manufacturing Industries
2. Cost Analysis and Evaluation.
3. Factory Warehouse.

Interested applicants may send their resumè thru fax or email:

Contact person : **DANIEL (0919-7926178)**
ALEX (0921-7500875)

Telefax (047) 252-7613 / Email: sachoalex@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES ENGINEER

- BSEE Graduate
- Female, not more than 35 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Must have at least 1 year experience in office/sales work
- Must be dynamic and reliable

Interested applicants may bring their comprehensive resumé with I.D. photo to:

VIRAGO INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Unit 5B, 8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Excellent opportunity for entry level or experienced **POLYSOMNOGRAPHER** or Sleep Technician in our state-of-the-art Scoring Center, scoring overnight PSGs and identifying EEG abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmias, and respiratory events according to sleep lab protocols. Prefer computer literate, excellent English communication skills and experience as a sleep tech, but other related fields will be considered. We will train accepted candidates. Work at night with starting salary of P20,000 per month. Send resumé to jubileescoring@gmail.com.

LAUREL HILL AGRIBUSINESS

High value crops grown in Batangas and Laguna. We are seeking experienced candidates for managerial positions. Experience required.

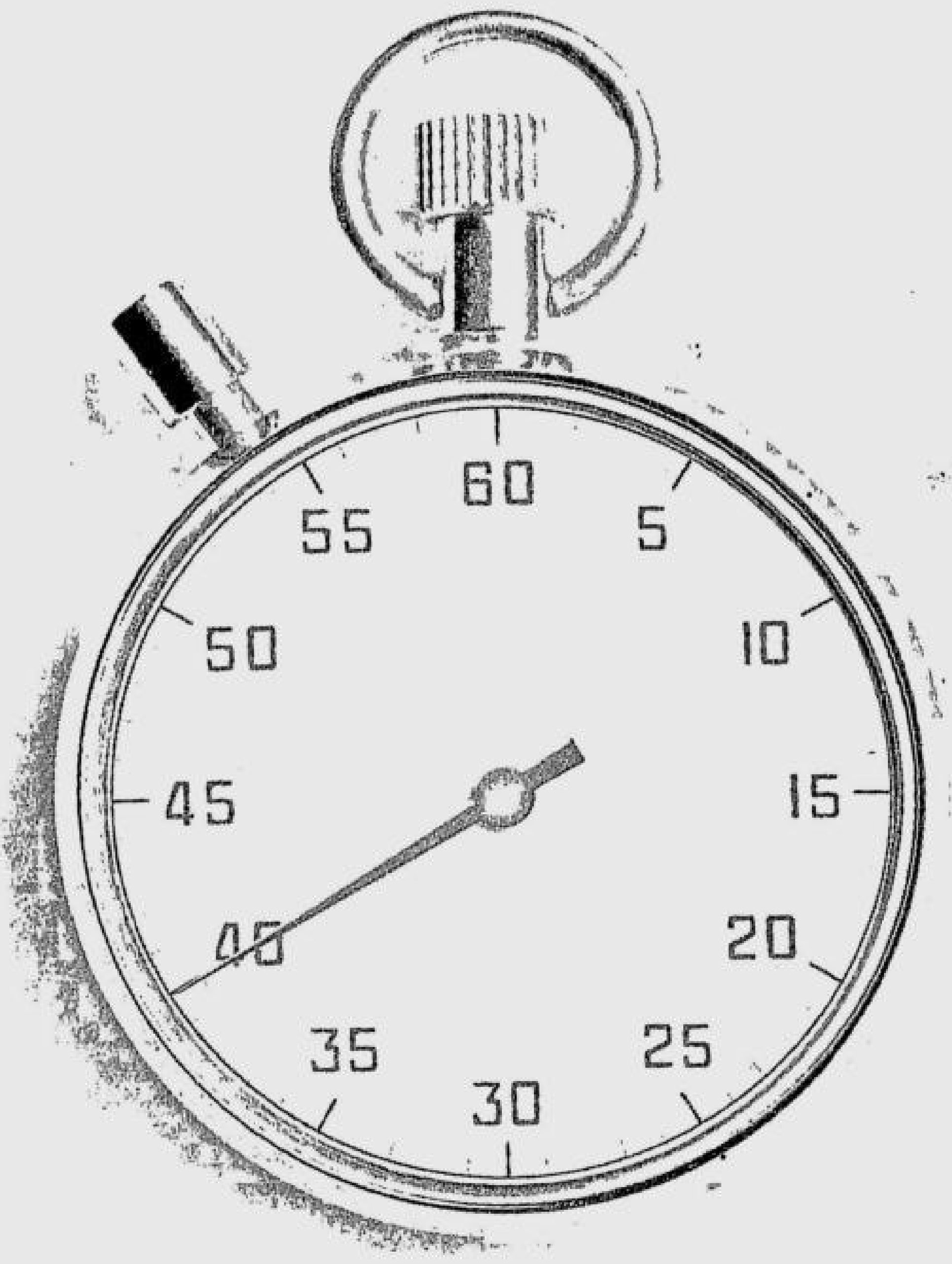
- **Farm Manager**: farms from 5 hectares to 35 hectares: Degree required
- **Fruit Manager**: mango, papaya, calamansi, other experience required
- **Mushroom Manager**: experience required
- **Herb Manager**: degree required
- **Honey Bee Manager**: experience required

Email resumé to **laurelhill_farm@yahoo.com** or send to Suite 14C, 6737 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, 1226

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES **722-1144 • 722-1155**

Prove yourself.

Pre-qualify in 40 minutes and get hired on the same day as a customer contact agent at Accenture!



**Attend our job fair on March 28 - 31 in Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City.
Join Accenture by March 31 and receive a special P15,000 signing bonus.**

We know the importance of creating the right environment for success. At Accenture, you can develop your skills faster than almost anywhere else. We're one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies and we help our clients become high-performance businesses. We're now building a customer contact services team in the Philippines and we want talented people to join us.

Customer Contact Agents.

We're looking for 4-year degree holders with excellent communication skills for our inbound contact center operations. Whether you are a call center professional, someone looking for a new challenge or a recent college graduate, get your career off to a great start.

As a customer contact agent for our Internet Service Provider client or for our Telecommunications account, you will provide technical support, customer service or handle billing inquiries.

Join our job fair on March 28 - 31, 2007, 9am to 6pm at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug Cebu City.

Or you may visit our recruitment center from March 26 - 30, 2007, 10am to 3pm, at Robinsons Pioneer Mall, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City. You could walk away with a new job on the same day!

For more details, please call or text us at 0917-8876532.

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MARCH 25, 2007

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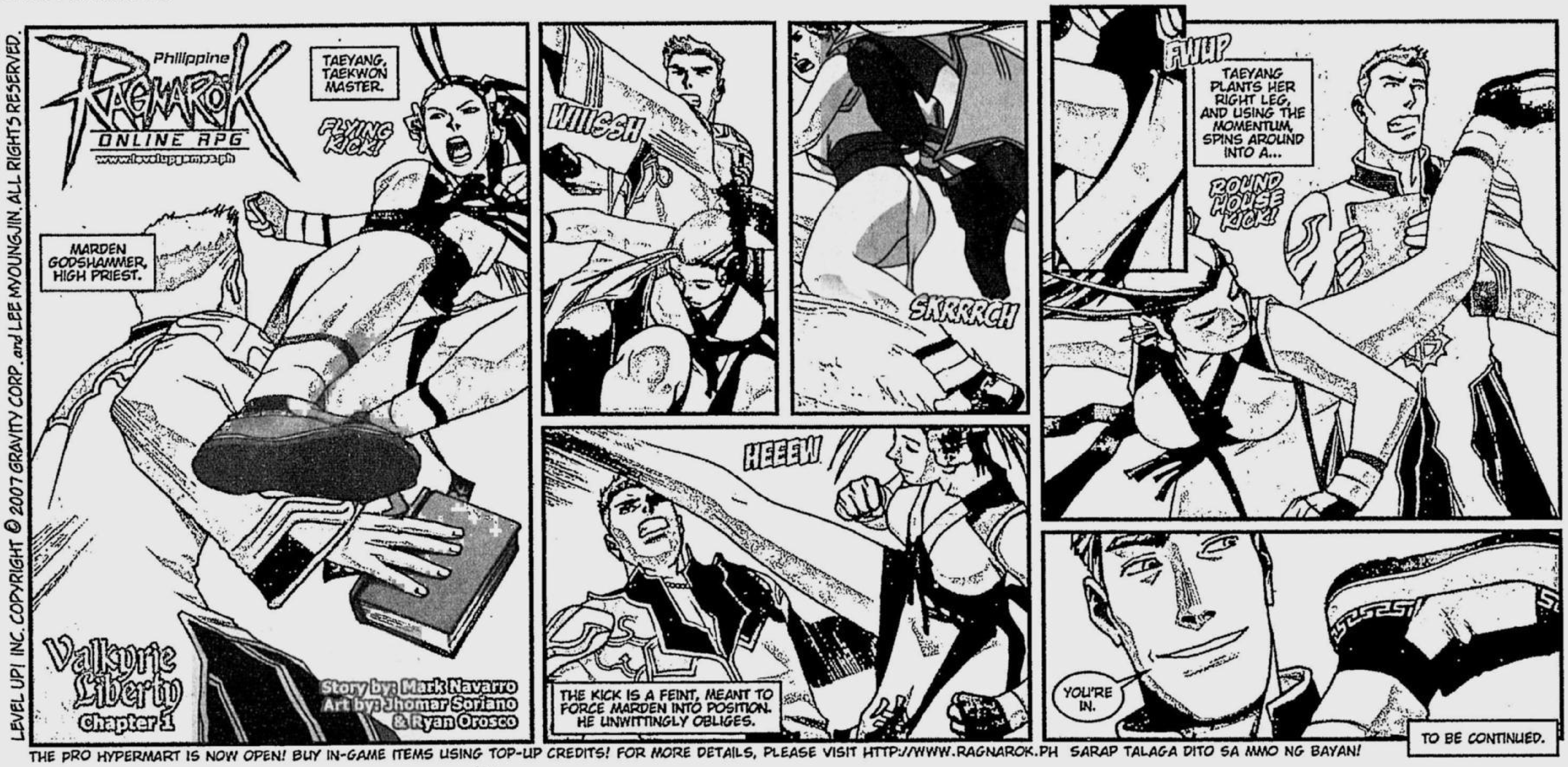
RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES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TAEYANG, TAEKWON MASTER.
FLYING KICK!
MARDEN GODSHAMMER, HIGH PRIEST.
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Chapter 1
Story by: Mark Navarro
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WIIISSH
SKRRRCH
HEEEW
THE KICK IS A FEINT, MEANT TO FORCE MARDEN INTO POSITION. HE UNWITTINGLY OBLIGES.
FWUP
TAEYANG PLANTS HER RIGHT LEG, AND USING THE MOMENTUM, SPINS AROUND INTO A...
ROUND HOUSE KICK!
YOU'RE IN.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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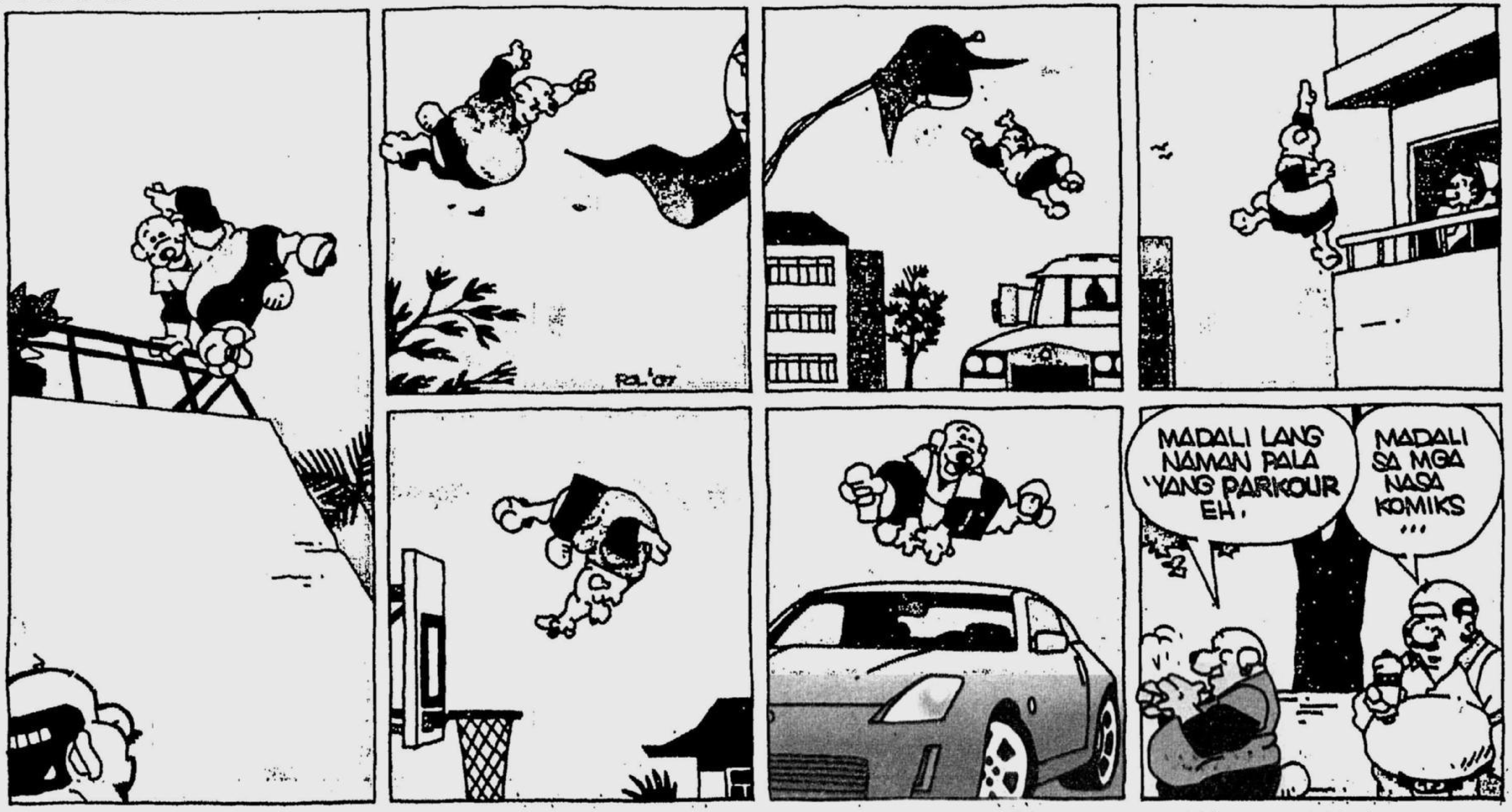
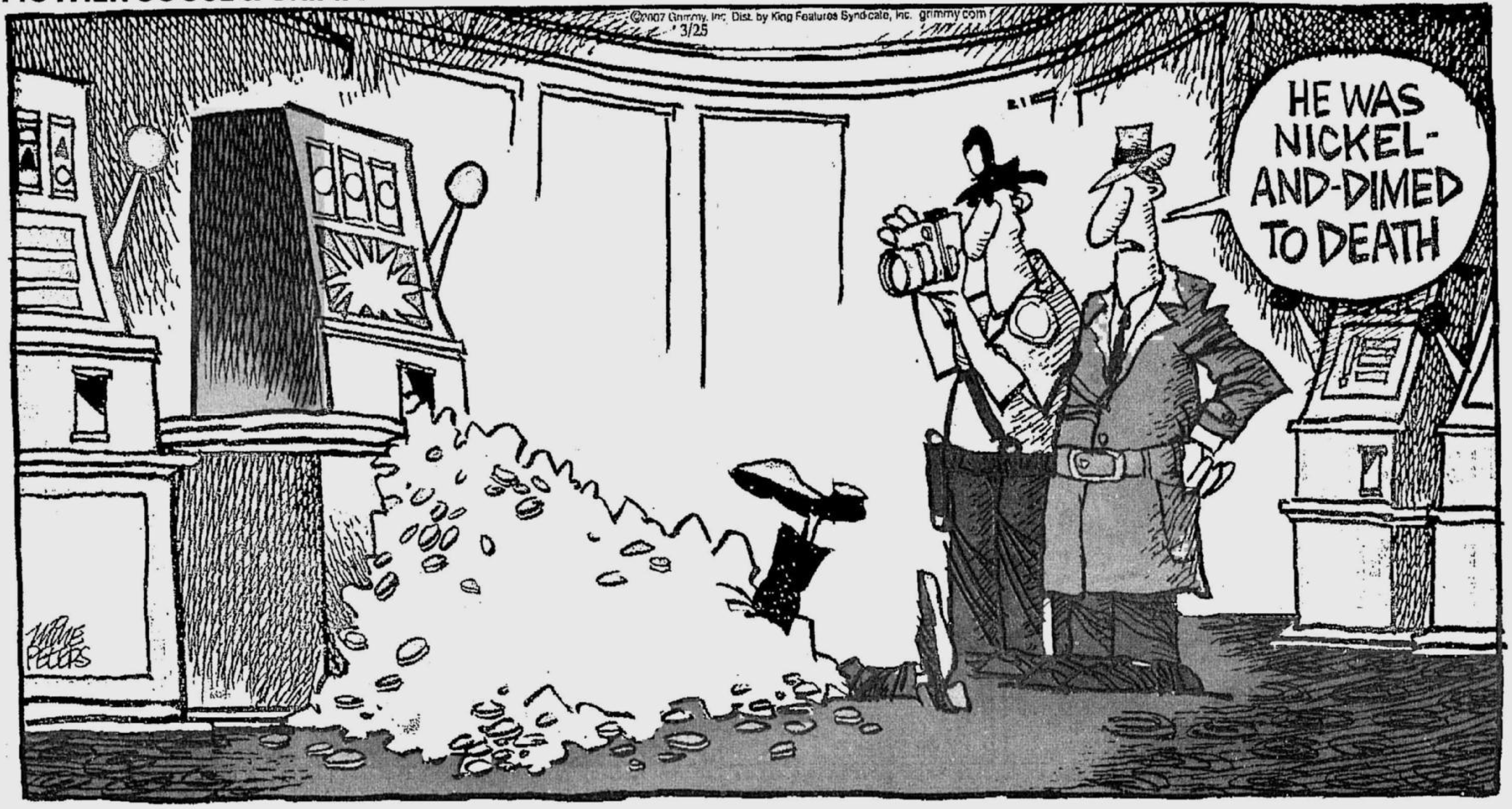
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


POL '07
MADALI LANG NAMAN PALA 'YANG PARKOUR EH.
MADALI SA MGA NASA KOMIKS ...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HE WAS NICKEL-AND-DIMED TO DEATH
MIKE PETERS

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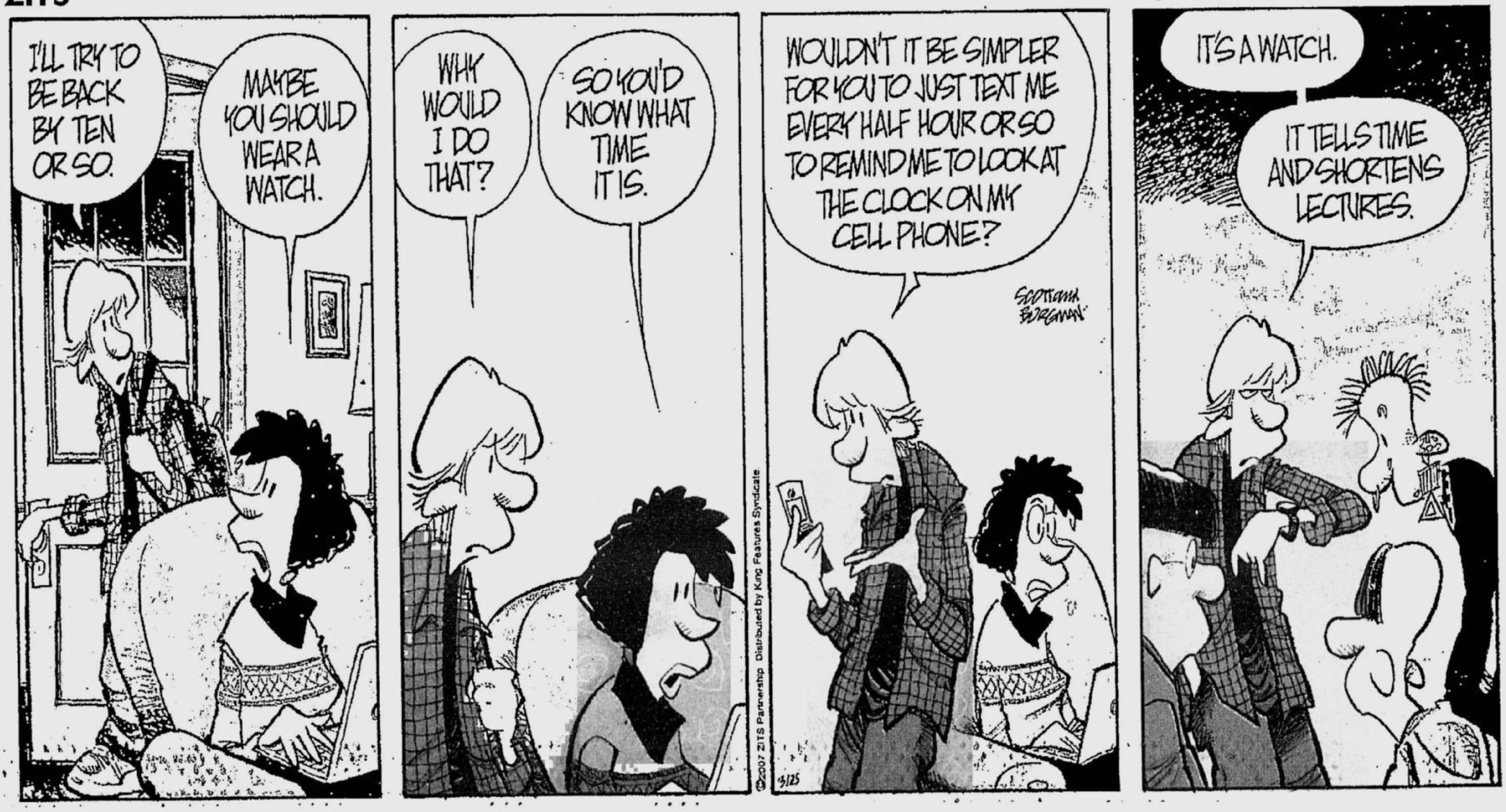
3/25

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


I'LL TRY TO BE BACK BY TEN OR SO.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD WEAR A WATCH.
WHY WOULD I DO THAT?
SO YOU'D KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS.
WOULDN'T IT BE SIMPLER FOR YOU TO JUST TEXT ME EVERY HALF HOUR OR SO TO REMIND ME TO LOOK AT THE CLOCK ON MY CELL PHONE?
SCOTT and BORGMAN
IT'S A WATCH.
IT TELLS TIME AND SHORTENS LECTURES.

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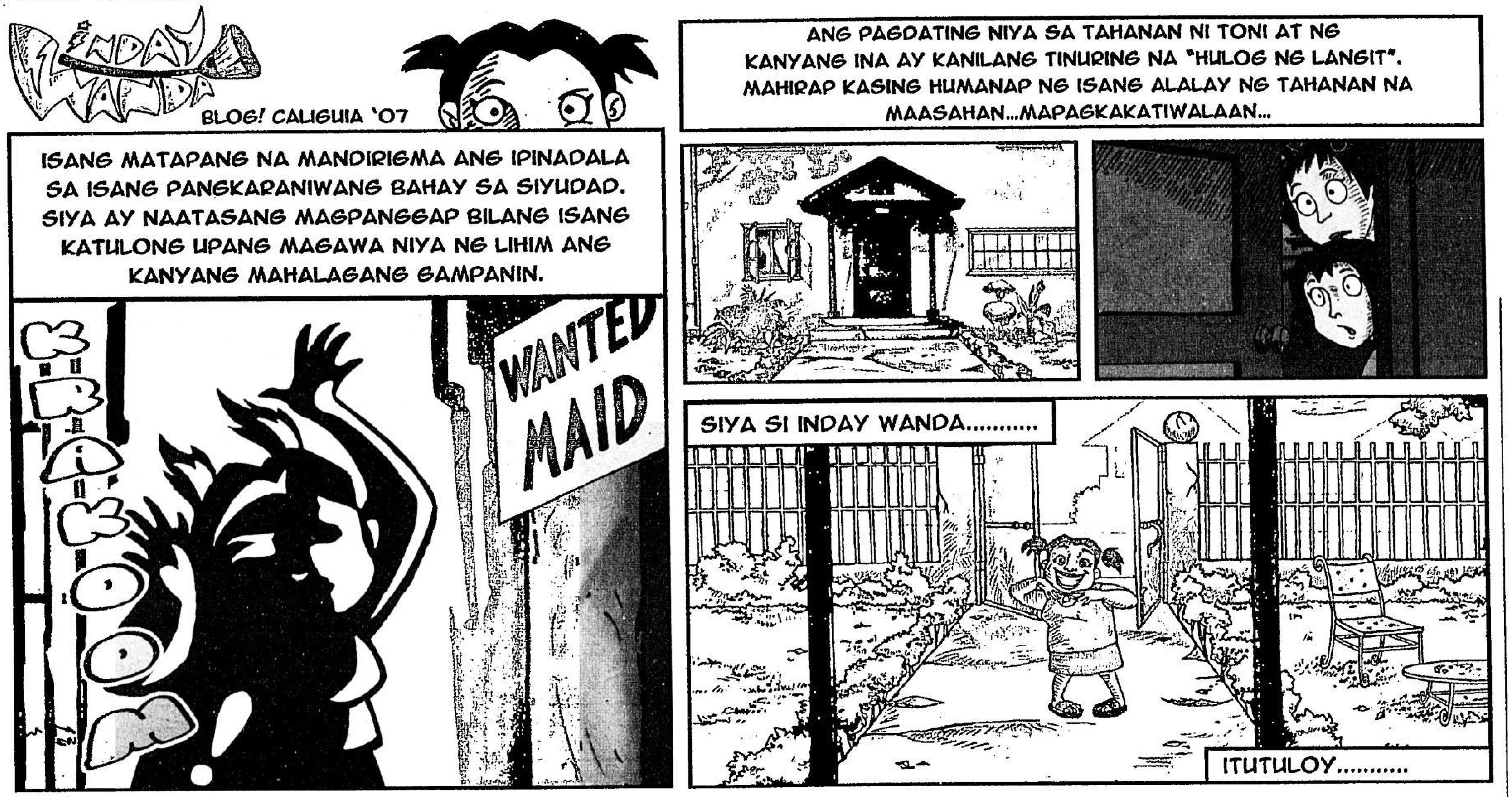
3/25

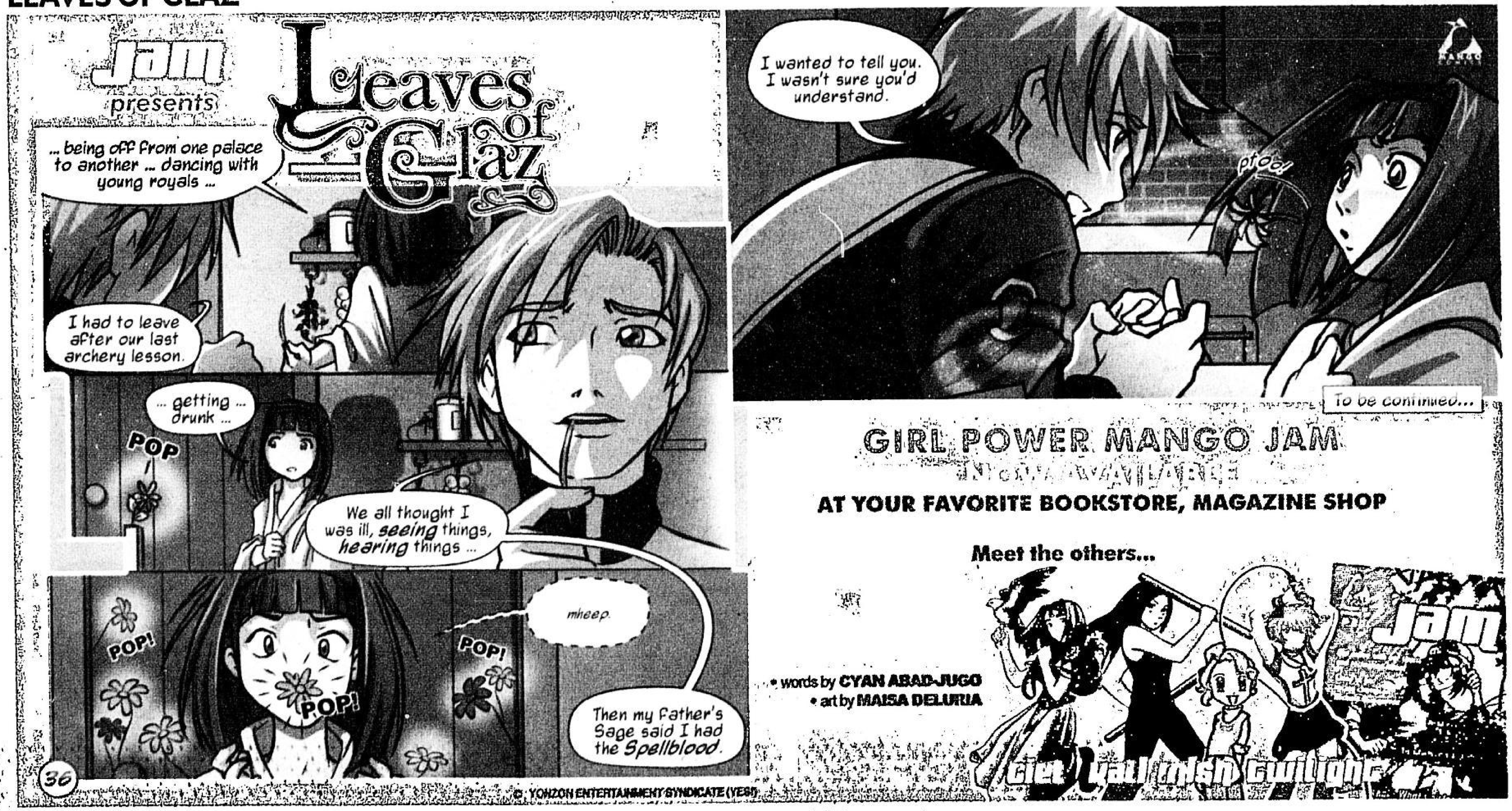
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


INDAY WANDA
BLOG! CALIGUIA '07
ISANG MATAPANG NA MANDIRIGMA ANG IPINADALA SA ISANG PANGKARANIWANG BAHAY SA SIYUDAD. SIYA AY NAATASANG MAGPANGGAP BILANG ISANG KATULONG UPANG MAGAWA NIYA NG LIHIM ANG KANYANG MAHALAGANG GAMPANIN.
KRIIKOOOO!
WANTED MAID
ANG PAGDATING NIYA SA TAHANAN NI TONI AT NG KANYANG INA AY KANILANG TINURING NA "HULOG NG LANGIT". MAHIRAP KASING HUMANAP NG ISANG ALALAY NG TAHANAN NA MAASAHAN...MAPAGKAKATIWALAAN...
SIYA SI INDAY WANDA..........
ITUTULOY..........

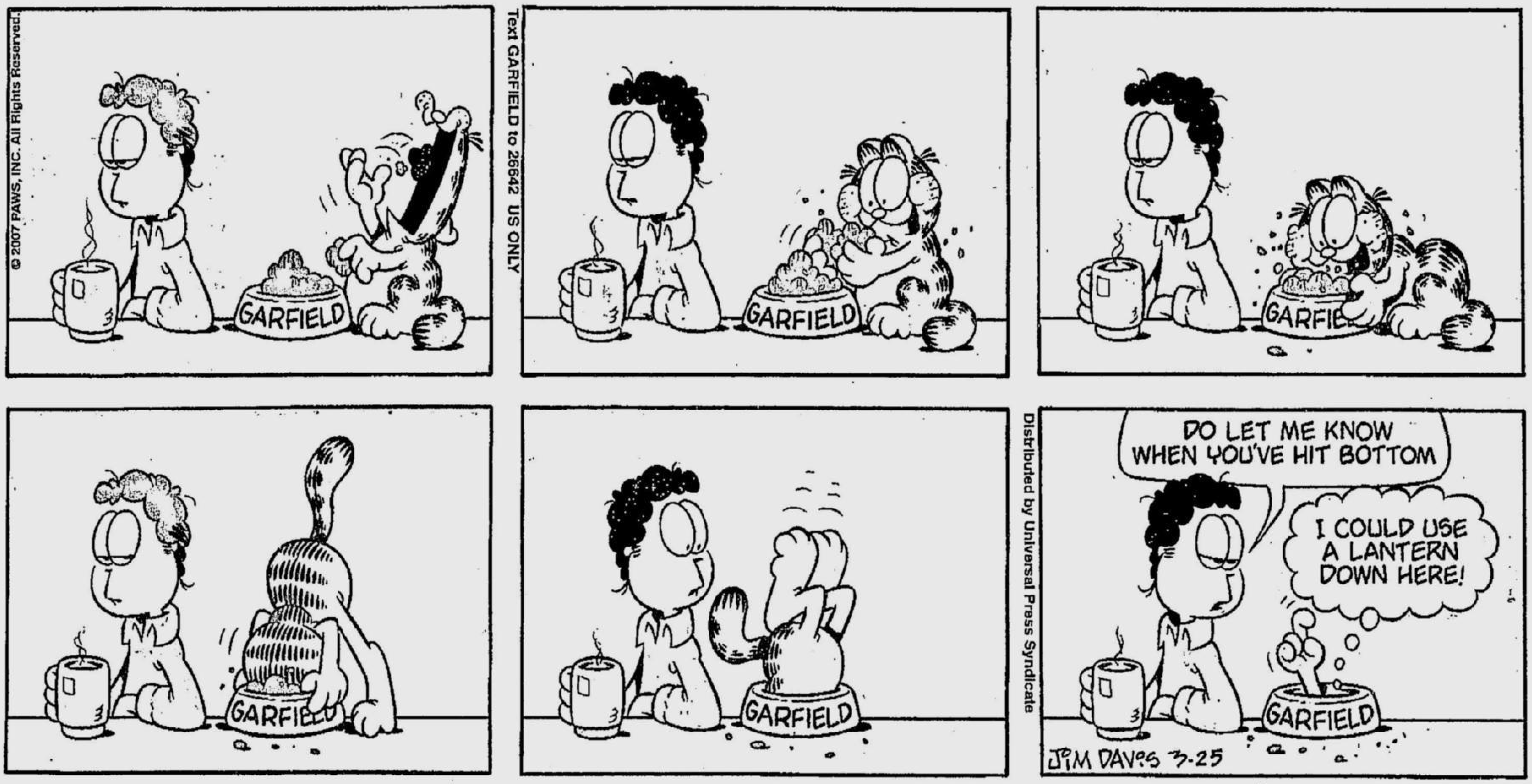
LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
... being off from one palace to another ... dancing with young royals ...
I had to leave after our last archery lesson.
... getting ... drunk ...
POP
We all thought I was ill, seeing things, hearing things ...
POP!
mheep.
POP!
POP!
Then my father's Sage said I had the Spellblood.
36
© YOHZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
I wanted to tell you. I wasn't sure you'd understand.
ptoo!
To be continued...
GIRL POWER MANGO JAM
NOW AVAILABLE
AT YOUR FAVORITE BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP
Meet the others...
• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
• art by MAISA DELURIA
Jam

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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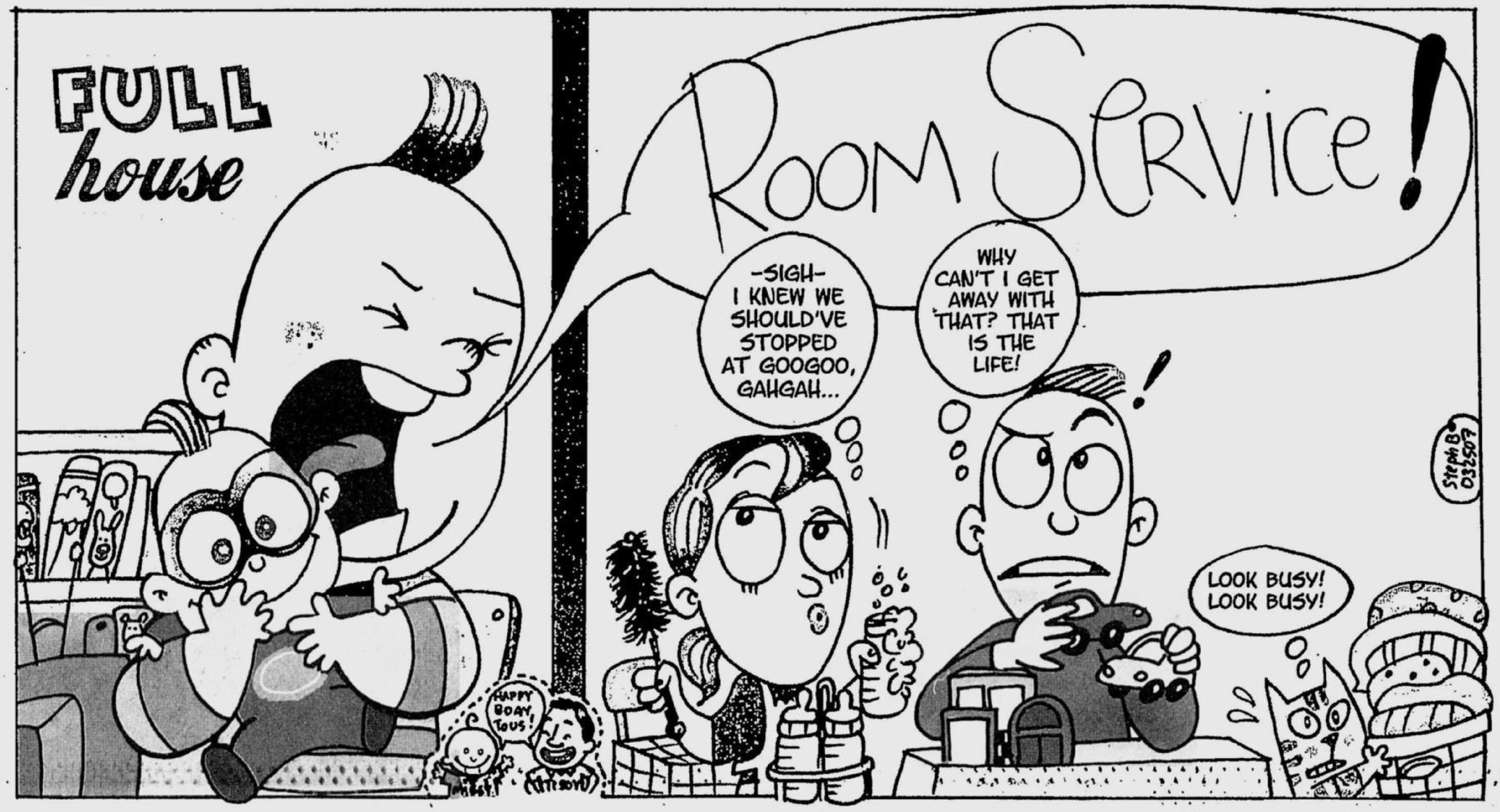
DO LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'VE HIT BOTTOM
I COULD USE A LANTERN DOWN HERE!
GARFIELD
JIM DAVIS 3-25

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL house
ROOM SERVICE!
-SIGH- I KNEW WE SHOULD'VE STOPPED AT GOOGOO, GAHGAH...
WHY CAN'T I GET AWAY WITH THAT? THAT IS THE LIFE!
!
Steph B. 032507
LOOK BUSY! LOOK BUSY!
HAPPY BDAY, TOUS!

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

March 25, 2007

FREE

National striker Philip Younghusband

Summer Kickoff

plus **Workshop for kids • Summer Jobs • Turning the TV Off • More!**

By Tere Z. Cruz

Out of mischief and out of your hair

Workshops to keep kids busy and their parents sane

TOO much TV, too messy, too noisy, too much! For parents looking out to keep their sanity in the long hot days ahead, here's a list of workshops to keep kids from getting underfoot:

• **Keep them nimble**. The Milo Sports Clinic offers training sessions on swimming, basketball, badminton, taekwondo, karatedo, muay thai, wall tennis, lawn tennis, table tennis, bowling, chess, ice skating and football. The clinic runs from March to May. For registration, call 914-7111 or 898-0001.

• **Keep them kicking.** The Makati Football School offers training sessions on basic football tricks for future Ronaldhinos and Beckhams. Tomas Lozano, a former Spanish football player, started the school which holds its practices at the Ascom Field in Fort Bonifacio. Training starts this April. For inquiries, call 632-8247520 or e-mail tlozano@mydestiny.net.

• **Keep them smart.** Get them to the Adarna House Book Camp to give them a jumpstart on how to start their own book projects on creative writing and illustrating. Camps will be held April 21, 28, May 5 and 12. For reservations, call 372-3548 local 110 or e-mail events@adarna.com.ph. Same dates and contact numbers for Adarna's Ready for School Workshops with its reading activities, storytelling, arts and games for tykes aged 3 to 7.

Pacita Abad Center for the Arts

Keeping creative hands busy should be a breeze this summer

• **Keep them reading, writing and drawing.** The Raya Summer Workshops For Kids will hold a Reading and Writing Workshop from April 16 to 27, and a Storytelling and Art Workshop from April 30 to May 11. Workshops will be held at 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Quezon City. For inquiries, call 376-2184, text 0917-6287546 or e-mail info@raya.org.ph.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) will hold an Animation Workshop which will teach kids how to make plastic illustration and animation techniques, introduction to frame-by-frame, storyboard and flipbook. For inquiries, call 832-1125 locals 1702/1704/1705.

• **Keep them dancing.** Airdance's 6th Summer Dance Workshop will be held all summer at the 2nd Level of The Outlet Yard, 1480 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries, call Avel Bautista at 373-3567 or e-mail airdance_ph @yahoo.com.

For kids who are aspiring to be little ballerinas and danseurs, there's Ballet Manila which holds its 11th workshop-Just Dance 10. Classes run from April to May 25. For inquiries, call 400-0292 or 525-5967.

Folk dance fans can go to the Pangkat Pambata Folk Dance Workshop to be conducted by The Philippine Folk Dance Society. Classes for children aged 7 to 12, will run from April 10 to May 4. For inquiries, call 832-1125 local 1607.

• **Keep them moving.** For those who want to learn Capoiera, Flamenco, belly dancing, modern jazz, breakdancing, modern dance and ballroom dancing, call Peak Performance Dance and Fitness at 0917-6247534 or 413-3466. Classes start on April 18 and ends June 2.

• **Keep them acting.** For young thespians, there's Trumpets Playshop 2007 with its classes on theater and musical theater. Workshops will run from April 2 to June 2. For inquiries, call 636-2842 or visit Trumpets Musicademy at the 5th Level of Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The Gantimpala Theater also holds a Musical Theater Workshop from April 11 to May 19. Theater actor Roeder Camañag and tenor and grand kundiman champion Nazer Salcedo will be the workshop facilitators. For inquiries, call 528-0603, 536-5860.

The CCP will conduct a Summer Arts Workshop on children's theater and beginning acting. For inquiries, call Nikki Torres at 832-2314 and 832-1125 local 1607.

The PETA Theater Center's workshop on drama and improvisations will run from April 10 to May 2. For inquiries, call 725-6244 or 410-0822.

• **Keep them singing.** CompanY offers Children's Vocal Performance Workshop for children aged 8 to 12. For more information, call Ronald Sarmiento or Lei Rivera at 412-8085 and 412-3403.

(continued on page 14)

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By Ross Harper-Alonso

The Kids are Alright

Four child-friendly places where even parents can relax and let their guard down

Ross Harper-Alonso

Hands-on summer: Ugu Bigyan puts fun in pottery (right); Kids traverse the branches at The Forest Club (below)

THE story is enough to send a chill up our spine. A varsity basketball player tries to save a young drowning cousin but gets electrocuted and dies. That the incident happened in a resort up North during a family outing makes the story doubly tragic.

Just how safe are our resorts? Can we ever let our guard down when we're on holiday, knowing that our children could get injured on steep stairways, slippery walkways or poorly-maintained facilities? And what about resorts that double as drinking places where brawls could erupt anytime and where loudspeakers constantly blare out sexually-explicit songs? Are there attentive lifeguards on duty? Are there enough wholesome recreational activities and facilities to keep bored kids from mischief?

SIM found four ideal family getaways where supervised children's activities are part of the package, and where parents can truly relax, knowing that the kids are alright.

Bluroze Farms Parks and Wildlife
Barangay Lodlod, Lipa City
A15-hectare sanctuary where children can enjoy interacting with farm and exotic animals in natural surroundings. It's impossible to leave this place without taking home a positive view of nature and learning a few virtues. Features family cottages and large camping areas. Entrance fee: P80; sizzling meal: P150; regular meal: P125; snacks: P110.

Contact Meloy Lingga 043-7565452 / 043-3124705, or check out www.blurozefarms.com

The Forest Club
Barangay Puypuy, Bay, Laguna
Nestled between Mount Banahaw and Mount Makiling, this nature sanctuary is famous for its eco-adventure program. A forest canopy walk, fishing lagoon and hot spring swimming pools are some of the outdoor amenities for active kids and their parents. This rustic escape also has children's activities meant to deepen their appreciation for Mother Earth. Day stay: P450/person, including buffet lunch and merienda. Overnight accommodations for families, students and corporate outings also available.

Check out www.theforestclub.com, contact Maien Clarino at (049)376-4623, or e-mail info@theforestclub.com

Ugu Bigyan's Kiddie Potter's Corner
490 Alvarez Village, Barangay Lusacan, Tiaong, Quezon
Ugu's gentle demeanor and the warm hospitality of his staff make dining in his garden lounge a laid-back experience for the whole family. After a buffet lunch of Filipino classics, parents can enjoy their coffee amidst serene surroundings while the master potter helps the children discover their creative side. Each child is given a kilo of clay and patient guidance to come up with his/her own art piece. Ugu's mini pinschers don't mind being cuddled or having visitors of their own kind. Complete meals for adults: P400/person; children below 6: P200/child. •

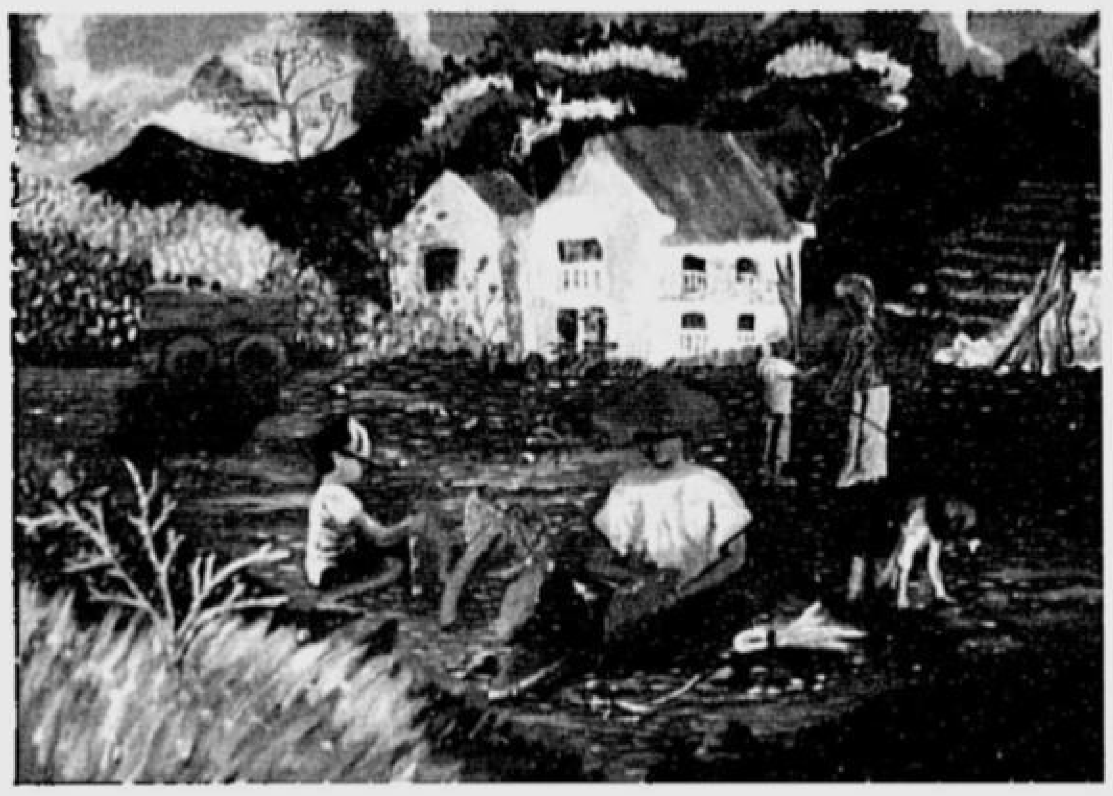
For details and reservations, please call Jaiya at 042-5459144.

Taal Lake Yacht Club
Talisay side of Taal Lake, Batangas
Former Manila Yacht Club Commodore and long-time sailor Peter Capotosto set up the Taal Lake Yacht Club 11 years ago so his children and guests can enjoy the same water sports he did as a child. A family-oriented retreat, it preserves much of the natural environment while guests learn to windsurf, sail, kayak or camp. Also a haven for dogs in their best behavior, as long as their masters pick up after them. Entrance fee: P100/person for non-members; open huts rental: P400/day; volcano trips: 1,500/banca for six adults; kayak rental: P800/day; sailboat rental: P1,200 to P3,800/day. Instructors and drivers available. No corkage or charge to bring in picnic baskets.

Check out www.tlyc.com or contact Peter Capotosto at 8113256 or e-mail peter@sailing.org.ph

I Know What You Did Last Summer

How the youth of Batanes discovered art and livelihood in its storm-tossed landscape



"Maytaketakey (Farming)," acrylic on canvas, by Brent Balasbas

SUMMER of last year found Fil-Am Fullbright Scholar Margarita Garcia leading the elementary, high school and out-of-school youth of Batanes all over this monsoon belt like a pied piper. The visiting scholar was helping Filipino indigenous youth work on some art projects while absorbing the Ivatan culture from her eyrie in a lighthouse. The result is a cache of modern and realistic paintings that showcase the beauty of the isolated and pristine Batanes isles, from the exotic women's headgear called "Vakul," to the thatch-roofed stone houses, to the stark images of a storm-tossed landscape.

This summer, the Pacita Abad Center for the Arts brings the work of these young Ivatans to the Cultural Center of the Philippines for an exhibit titled "*Ani ng Sining*: Indigenous Life and Livelihood in Batanes."

Friends and fans of the late international artist Abad, known for her beaded and embroidered trapunto paintings, will be thrilled to see that her legacy of vibrant colors and innovative style lives on in these young artists. Some of their art have already been sold all over world through the internet, resulting in livelihood opportunities for Batanes' indigenous youth, says Garcia, now the executive director of the Pacita Abad Center for the Arts. •

The exhibit runs until April 15. Admission is free. For schedules, call the CCP at 832-1125 to 29. loc 1704 and 1705. For more information on the Pacita Abad Center for the Arts, e-mail mangotahiti@yahoo.com.

Feeling 10 feet tall

Five more ways to help kids build up their self-esteem

Their own beauty: Girls must learn to appreciate their own individual traits

NOT pretty enough, not thin enough, not white enough, not tall enough, not enough friends, not smart enough, not talented enough... Children and teenagers grapple with these ideals day in and day out, their self-esteem plummeting with every perceived deficiency.

In "Beauty, Self-Esteem, and the Asian Teenager," a study commissioned by Dove, 80 percent of girls admit to avoiding various activities because they feel bad about their physical appearance; 27 percent say they would avoid attending social events; 17 percent confess to actually skipping school; a further 18 percent would skip a job interview, and 17 percent would avoid going to the doctor.

Various factors affect a person's self esteem, among them body changes in puberty and the airbrushed media images of celebrities and models that adolescents often compare themselves with.

Here are a few tips to help your kids improve their body image:

1. Help your children to appreciate themselves through their own beauty. Avoid comparing them with others who may be taller, thinner, fairer, etc. Negative comments and teasing—even from siblings—can affect a person's body image. Compliment them on their own physical assets and be a role model yourself by eating healthy foods instead of using crash diets to slim down.

2. Make a list of what they're good at, their talents and skills and what they do best. Praise them often and think up ways to highlight their unique qualities.

(continued on page 6)

Art for arts' sake

An art auction helps a school use the arts to teach kids about math, geography, history and other subjects

HOW do you build up your art collection while helping a school maintain its goal of putting the arts in the center of its curriculum?

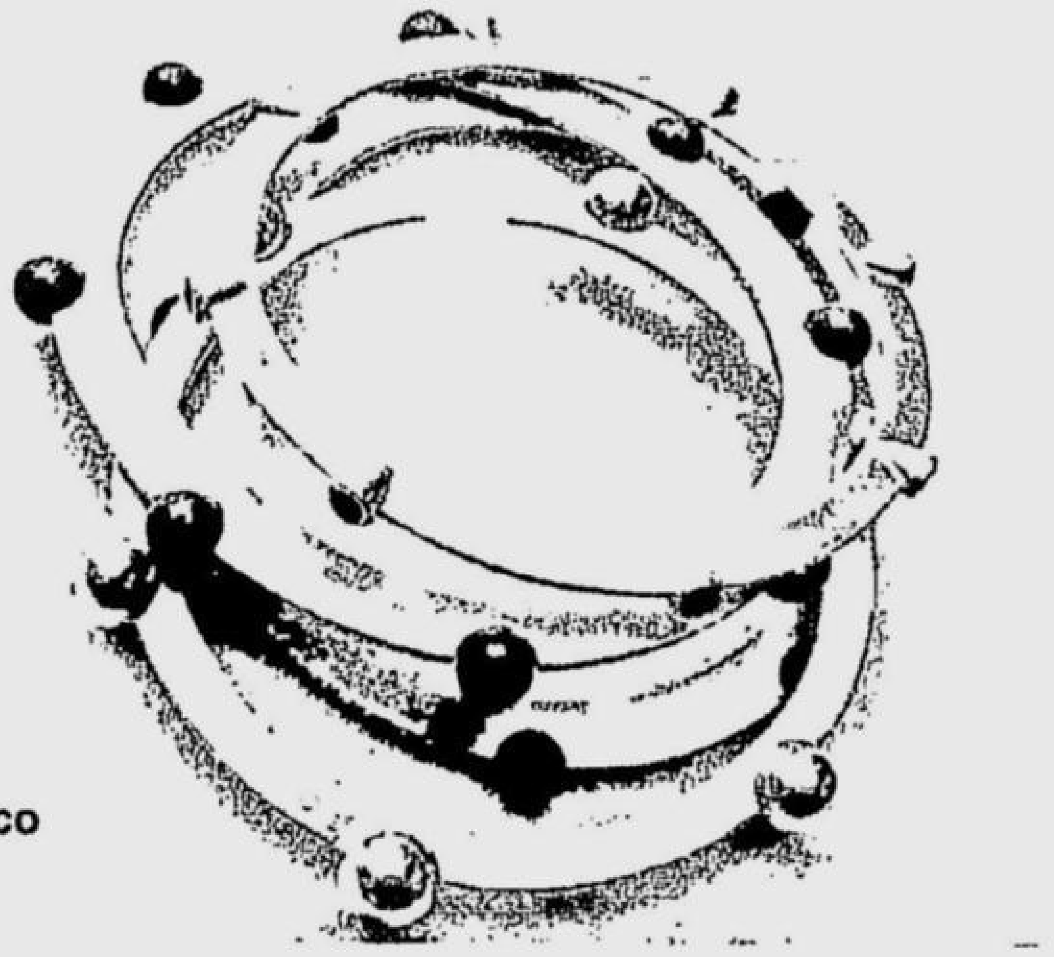
Well, you can attend a silent art auction, for a start.

A one-day silent art auction in celebration and support of the arts and the Waldorf/Steiner education movement in the Philippines will be held on March 31 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Lumiere Gallery in Makati. Titled "Play of Colors 2007," the event will auction off an estimated 50 to 60 art works of some of the country's top and upcoming artists in various media: painting, photography, pottery, sculpture, and wearable art.

Featured artists include Arturo Luz, Lanelle Abueva, Neil Oshima, Ramon Orlina, Red Mansueto, Sonny Yniguez, Tom Epperson, Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Philipp Syjuco, Cid Reyes, Eduardo Castrillo, Miguel Fabie, Brenda Fajardo, Alan Razo, Edwin Wilwayco and Wyn Wyn Ong.

Proceeds from the auction will be channeled to development programs, teacher training, and school facilities of the Manila Waldorf School (MWS).

Established more than 10 years ago by pioneering parents and a group of dedicated teachers trained in the principles of Waldorf education in early childhood, the MWS has grown from a simple play group into a non-stock, non-profit educational foundation with programs from kindergarten to high school and a growing population of 200 children.



A piece by Philipp Syjuco

The school community takes to heart the philosophy initiated by its founder Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher, scientist and educator, who established the Waldorf or Steiner system of education to "develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives."

The approach nurtures the child's whole being, working from the "hands" (physical) through the "heart" (emotional and spiritual) to the "mind" (intellectual). To achieve this, the Waldorf/Steiner education fully integrates the arts into a scientifically researched curriculum.

Teachers see art not merely as an end-result but as a by-product of a child's developing mind, body and spirit. Using art as a tool to teach and learn helps children absorb the subject matter, and gives them the skills needed to learn about heavier topics as they go to middle school and upper school, whether it be history, math, geography or music. Thus, art plays a big part in early childhood, as well as in the child's adolescent years. **Michael Antigua**

For more information about Play of Colors, please visit www.mws-playofcolors2007.com <http://www.mws-playofcolors2007.com>

Feeling 10 feet tall (from page 5)

3. Help them be in control. Should your children whine about perceived body imperfections, suggest ways by which they can realistically improve their appearance while assuring them that these "defects" are temporary and are brought about by hormonal changes due to puberty. At the same time, tell them about things they cannot change and have to accept—like shoe size—because they're part of their individuality.

4. Help them set goals for themselves. If they want to change something in themselves, sit down with them to set up a realistic plan that can lead to their goal, whether it be to shed some pounds or have fairer, smoother skin. Get them to understand the root causes of their problems and to solve it at that level instead of relying on temporary and cosmetic solutions. Acne, for one, may be due to late nights or too much oily food.

5. Encourage them to think positive. When they're feeling depressed, help them to think of instances that made them laugh or feel happy. Assure them of your support and of being there for them whatever their problem is.

To help girls develop their self esteem, the Dove Self-Esteem Fund was created. One peso for every Dove product sold goes directly to the Fund to enable school girls to participate in BodyTalk, seminars that will orient girls to see themselves in a new light, enticed to face the world with high self-value and confidence. Organized in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, the workshops aim to teach young women aged 8 to 14 to have a wider definition of beauty so that they may develop a positive self-image and reach their full potential in later life. •

For more information, log on to campaignforrealbeauty.ph

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

Breakfast at any hour in Bora

A foodie can find morning-style paradise in this major island destination

Pineapple Mint and Watermelon Ginger shakes (above); Mango Madness (right)

ON an island where day is night and night is day and breakfast is enjoyed at three in the afternoon, an all-day breakfast café is an inevitable venture. And so it goes in Boracay, where all-day breakfast menus of pancakes, omelets, and eggs Benedict have been popularized not by locals but by foreigners who have fallen in love with and settled in this isle.

Nadine (islanders have no surnames) is a tall and very charming American who moved to Boracay over ten years ago and built Real Coffee. JJ Cocjin, whose family owns Seawind, another Boracay institution, says you cannot claim to know Boracay if you don't know Real Coffee, a quaint little cafe in Station 1, just past Happy Ongpauco's Hawaiian Barbecue. The place is not smack on the beachfront; you have to go into an alley to reach it, so you either chance upon this place or learn about it by word of mouth.

Real Coffee offers a brew strong enough to shake off a mad hangover from the five Apple Roskas you downed at Juice Bar the night before. In a place bereft of Starbucks and Figaro (finally!), Nadine's coffee house is paradise for the caffeine-dependent. But the best item on Nadine's menu is her Calamansi Muffin. This is one of the best muffins in the Philippines. Its flavors are identifiable but muted so it is only slightly sweet and slightly citrusy, but definitely perfect with their strong coffee. Best of all, you can buy this by the box and take home as *pasalubong* to friends envious of your tan!

If the realization of your earthly existence hits you at 3 p.m. in response not to the burning rays of the day but to the pangs of a growling stomach, you can appease your tummy with Real Coffee's Jack O' Lean omelet. With two eggs, tuna and loads of cheese, you and your midsection buddy will be fast friends again. Girls can share this because it's big enough for two, maybe even three—if you want to be sure you still look hot in that two piece number after eating!

But the island's best all-day breakfast menu is in a restaurant in D' Mall that opened just last year. Lemon Café, which I am told is owned by the former manager of Friday's, another Bora institution, is now run by Chef Peter Montemayor, whose training includes stints at Shangri-la Mactan and Makati. Peter makes amazing eggs Benedict as well as a poached egg dish that sandwiches tanigue between that bottom layer of bread and his perfectly poached eggs. I am a diner food fanatic so this item on the menu perked up my groggy tastebuds with delight. Like most meals in Bora, the serving is enough for a sumo wrestler, but Peter also adds a tiny plate of fruits on the side, possibly to break the monotony of the taste of eggs. This is brilliant, actually, because just when you think you can't have any more, you dip your fork into the fruits and you end up finding yourself enjoying the eggs Benedict again.

Pair this heavy meal if you can with Lemon Café's amazing fruit shakes. Peter did not want to offer just your regular mango shake so he experiments with fruit combinations, and now offers Watermelon Ginger and Pineapple Mint shakes, just perfect for the hot summer weather. Along with Lemon Café's first class cake called Mango Madness, by Swedish/Bora local Julia Lervic, Peter's shakes are Bora must-try's!

After these filling meals, you should be ready to play beach tennis and begin the sunrise to sunset routine again. Then later, with your apple martini in hand, you can once again kick back on the white sand and enjoy Paradise. •

Lemon Café (036) 288 6781. Juice Bar is in Station 2 in an area called Plazoletta.

By Cora Llamas

The Wages of Summer

Four ways to turn your skills and extra time into cash

AFTER soaking up the sun on your favorite beach, high-tailing it out of town on weekends, and gorging yourself on DVDs of movies you've missed, what else can you do during these long summer days?

Earning extra income—while doing something you really like—is always welcome and gives you that inner glow that even hours in the spa can't.

The first question to ask yourself is: what are you passionate about? Or what skills do you have that other people would pay good money for? And would you be able to do them without giving up your other commitments (summer jobs are usually part-time, after all).

Here are some ideas:

1. **Freelance writing.** If you have excellent verbal and written skills in English, you already have an edge. Publications and the communications industry are always looking for good contributing writers who can do interesting, grammar-perfect, coherent stories that need minimal editing. Substantial research and recorded interviews may be needed, and of course the writer must meet deadlines. Magazines usually pay P1,500-P2,000, while PR companies pay higher for press releases and corporate profiles—from P2,000-P8,000, depending on the urgency of the deadline and the number of rewrites. Copy for an entire website with an average of five encoded pages can earn you P10,000-P15,000.

2. **Part-time tutoring to call center applicants.** Again, fluency in English comes in handy in this job. Call center agents who deal with mainly American clients must be smart and articulate, and preferably speak with an American accent.

A Camp Cali facilitator: Guardian angel to campers

The English Chatroom (EC), a Mandaluyong-based English-language school, responds to call center needs by giving lessons in English to applicants. Should these students pass the 100-hour Finishing Call Center Course, the school itself recommends them to call centers for possible employment. In partnership with the Technical Educational Skills Development Authority (TESDA), EC assesses indigent students in a seven-minute phone interview; those who pass are given a scholarship.

While the course does emphasize grammar, pronunciation, comprehension, and the cultivation of an American accent, potential teachers must also have a heart for the students, given their difficult backgrounds. Says Marites Viray, EC's office manager and part-time instructor: "A lot of our students are aged 18 to 55 and come from the low income group. We teach them to think positive and focus. Teachers need patience to understand and bring out the best in these students."

It is that quality that Viray looks for when she screens part-time English teachers. Naturally, proficiency in the language and the ability to teach are also requirements. The job pays P200-P250 an hour. At eight hours and roughly two classes a day, one can easily earn P1,600-P2,000.

3. **Facilitators for summer camps.** Heart— and a genuine love for kids—are likewise the requirements for facilitators watching over children 8-14 years of age in Camp Cali, a summer outdoor camp based in Caliraya, Laguna.

For five to six days, the children learn kayaking, sailing, environmental protection, painting, arts and crafts. *Yayas* are set aside as the kids are taught to fix their own beds and wash their own plates.

Facilitators act like guardian angels to the campers. Says camp director Lex Reyes, "They make sure the kids are fed, watch over them when they're in the water and sleep beside them inside tents at night to provide them protection. They also relay all information handed out by the instructor."

A weeklong camp pays P3,000 for facilitators who, Reyes says, "should be good with kids, are outdoor enthusiasts, and know how to swim. They should also be physically fit and should have had experience in teaching or handling people."

4. **Sales representatives.** Pharmanex Philippines, a company that sells nutritional products, offers salesmen and promoters different ways of earning extra income: through direct selling where they pitch products directly to customers; referrals, where they direct interested parties to a sales rep and get commissions for consummated sales; and as a franchiser, who handles groups of people who use the products and in turn sell them to others.

(continued on page 12)

By Claire Agbayani

Thinking Out of the (Idiot) Box

Is television running your household? Teresa Morales thinks so and has waged a war to reclaim the remote control

"DO you live in the Stone Age?"

This is an oft-repeated query addressed to Teresa "Tetes" Morales, a pre-school educator, to her husband Super and daughter Ana. (Her two other children, Renzo and Mon, are in their thirties and no longer live with them).

Morales recounts her family's journey that has led to such question: "In the 17 years that my husband worked in television, writing, directing and producing shows like 'Vilma in Person' and 'VIP,' among others, we limited our TV viewing to the late news, documentaries, and an occasional home video for our daughter. One day, our TV set conked out on us. I kept putting off its repair, and before we knew it, a year had passed. We then realized that there were so many other things that we had begun to do, individually and as a family, to fill up those hours that were used listening to the news and watching 'Oprah.'"

This happened ten years ago, and the Morales family has not even had the compulsion to buy a VCD or DVD player.

Morales recounts that her interest in curbing TV viewing in her own household actually began 20 years ago, when she watched a video titled "The Christian View of Television."

"Until I saw what was on that film, I would not have taken abrupt measures about this 'idiot box' that takes so much space in our lives, our time, our thoughts and lifestyle."

Roger Carpio

TV-free interaction: Morales counsels the next generation

The video, she says, focuses mainly on how TV shows with themes centered on sex, violence, and the occult have infiltrated households. Some educators and psychologists, she adds, have observed the alarming effects of television and computers on kids because of the sheer amount of time they spend in front of them.

"We have left this all-important aspect of the child's growth to the tube, with super-heroes and movie stars shaping an entire generation of young people," says Morales. What bothers her, she adds, is how their uncensored lifestyles have become acceptable. "They are no longer ostracized by civilized society, they've become THE society!" she gasps.

Watching too much TV has unintended negative consequences as well, cites Morales. These include developing anti-social behavior, bad eyesight, posture problems, wrist problems, delayed language development, lack of focus and poor listening skills, low scores on achievement tests, especially in Reading, depression and feelings of isolation, consumerism or the "frenzied mode to buy the latest, newest, fastest, sleekest, fanciest item shown on TV," and weight gain, as one unthinkingly consumes fattening snacks while watching television.

And so, Morales asks, "What do people like us do, when we have no access to media, don't have any column, TV show or any kind of platform to raise our concerns on these assaults of indecency on the rest of the population?"

She answers her own question: "We teach." And that, she does.

When teacher Emma Gutierrez, directress of the Holistic Education and Development Center (HEd Cen) at the Little Farm House in Beverly Hills Subdivision in the Taytay/Antipolo area invited Morales to teach Values Education, she grabbed it. "Now we march to the classrooms and teach kids to refine their senses, have a discriminating eye and a sensitive ear, and to turn off that TV!"

She is unfazed by criticism about her stance. "Many parents may object to my radical stand regarding television. They point out that television offers much in terms of information and education. Unfortunately, these kinds of shows are not on primetime; the ratings game puts entertainment shows at the peak hours of the household's viewing time. This does not really address the issue. This is the heart of the matter: It is the habit that needs to be confronted."

In the end, Morales concludes, not watching TV is a lifestyle choice.

"I would like to see the next generation of families enjoying a quality of life that is not enslaved by technology. We hold the remote control, right?" she asks. "Not the TV station, not the advertisers, not the men and women who parade across our screens. Every one can make this choice: control your TV set, or let it control you." •

(continued on page 12)

By Jasmine W. Payo
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Kicking His Way to the Top

British-Filipino striker Phil Younghusband who has been playing with the national team these past two years, might yet make football as big as basketball in this country

BY NOW, Philip James Younghusband has become accustomed to the pressure.

As a reserve for football powerhouse Chelsea in England, the British-Filipino striker has learned to fight for his spot through sheer talent.

"In England, because there's so much competition, people talk behind your back. It's so ruthless. Every time you go out, you're judged," says Younghusband.

"Every person in England wants to play with Chelsea," he adds. "It's the biggest thing in England. And Chelsea says if you're not good enough, if you don't want it that much, we can get someone else who wants it more than you."

It's a demanding set up that Younghusband has lived with for more than half his life. "I started kicking a ball when I was about three. In England, football is the biggest sport. It's always on the telly (television) and I had a lot of people to look up to. You have to start really, really young. Otherwise, you're behind and other players have the advantage. Football people also develop at different rates. When you're younger, if you're big and strong, you're the better player. But as you grow older, people catch up."

Only 19, Younghusband was 9 when Chelsea scouts spotted him and older brother James in football trials.

"I got approached by five or six (club scouts). They approached my parents. And I went to all the clubs to see which one I love best. I was in Chelsea for two weeks and I got a contract," shares this striker who is now being managed by PR Asia Worldwide.

The two-week stint turned into a

decade as Younghusband suited up for the Chelsea Youth Team—where he became the top scorer in the 2003-2004 season—before turning professional in 2005.

"I'm proud of that, to have been with Chelsea for 10 years now," he muses. "It's so competitive, not everyone is going to make it. I've seen so many people come and go, probably over a hundred. When I started, there were probably about 40 players (in my batch). And now there are about two or three left."

Even his brother, 20-year-old James, has moved on to AFC Wimbledon, a semi-professional London club. "That's where everything is (at Chelsea), the life in England at the moment," Philip points out.

So when the Younghusband brothers planed in to compete in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games under the Philippine flag, Phil expected more cutthroat action.

Instead, a raucous reception greeted the Younghusbands, whose local lineage was serendipitously discovered in a PlayStation video by an unidentified gamer.

As Darren Hartmann, another British-Filipino national team member, recalls: "One of the coaches told me that there are two players at Chelsea who can play here. I didn't believe him at all."

Says Younghusband: "I came in a week before the SEA Games. I had a week to get to know the team, and they're all very nice lads. They really welcomed me."

The overwhelming local acceptance followed Younghusband on his return duty for the national team in Bacolod last year.

On the pitch, coaches and teammates heaped credits on the 5'11" striker for his six goals in the Asean Football Federation qualifiers. Off the field, teenage girls swooned over the hazel-eyed heartthrob for his striking looks and gentle humor.

"Here, they know you're a good player so if you do one bad thing, it's not so bad. In England, if you do one bad thing, you're out," says Younghusband. "And when I come out for a game in the Philippines, everyone's asking for my autograph. I go back in Chelsea, I come out, there's no one there. I get on the bus and go home."

But Susan Placer-Younghusband doesn't want her son getting swell-headed.

"He's a good son, very sensitive," says Susan, a native of Malabon. "When he makes his first goal, he looks for us in the crowd. He's sweet that way."

Now 45, Susan befriended the elder Philip Younghusband in 1985. All in two months, the couple got hooked as "pen pals," met face to face, got married and settled in London. And there have been no regrets for Susan even after her husband died of cancer four years ago.

Going for goal: Phil fends off fellow national Darren Hartmann

Left with two sons and a 5-year-old daughter, Susan has remained devoted to her boys' budding football career.

"*Nahihiya nga ako noong una* (I felt embarrassed initially) because I knew nothing about football," she says. "But whatever makes them happy, we support it."

The young Phil attests to this. "(My mom's) very supportive. If she can't watch me live, she watches me on telly since my games in Chelsea are televised," he says. "Even if I knew I had a bad game, she's always like, 'well played, well played,' to give me confidence."

But losing, he acknowledges, is part of the game. "It's hard," he says. "I hardly talk when I lose, because you're always thinking what if I did this, what if I did that. You're always wondering what you could have done better. You're always taught to give your best, your 100 percent. When you lose, it's a horrible feeling. But I can't wait until the next game, so I can redeem myself."

The Younghusbands admit that their family's football revelry occasionally do turn into sibling rivalry.

"I sort of feel for my parents," confesses Phil, who's tabbed as the better player. "They're torn between James and myself. If one is doing better than the other, they don't like that. They want us both going up together. If I'm doing better than James, my mom will slightly favor my brother. If James is doing better than me, I'm favored. It's like the Filipino way."

Susan maintains she's giving equal love to her two sons, both on the cusp of Philippine sport stardom. "We're giving our 100 percent support," she notes. "We have no favorites. If we give Phil two pairs of shoes, James also gets two pairs. *Walang lamangan*."

Despite the family support, Phil confesses to wanting out at some point. "I'm never satisfied," he says. "When I was younger, I wanted to quit all the time. The sport is ruthless. If you're not good enough, you're out. Right now, (playing for Chelsea) is a job. But it's a great team. They try to make it more bearable, more interesting for us. So I never really want to quit. You just have to make sacrifices sometimes."

It's the love of the game that keeps him going, he says. "It's never about the money when you're young. You just enjoy it, especially when you're competitive. I'm quite competitive, and when you're winning, you just enjoy the feeling. That's why I love it." •

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

3								8
	7	6	1				2	
				2			5	
					4	6	8	
	2	1	3					
	9			4				
	6				9	7	3	
4								9

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/25

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Answer to previous puzzle

5	3	9	7	1	8	4	2	6
1	6	4	3	5	2	8	9	7
2	7	8	4	9	6	5	3	1
8	9	7	1	3	5	6	4	2
3	1	6	8	2	4	9	7	5
4	2	5	9	6	7	1	8	3
6	8	3	2	4	1	7	5	9
7	5	2	6	8	9	3	1	4
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Erratum:

In the article "Greying Anatomy" (**SIM**, 11 March, 2007), it was incorrectly stated that the University of the Philippines-General Hospital has established a charity ward for geriatric patients. What UP-PGH has is a free weekly clinic every Tuesday morning where patients are screened by doctors attending to patients 70 and older with multiple medical problems. **SIM** regrets the error. — **Ed.**

The Wages of Summer (from page 8)

A franchiser makes an investment of P12,600 and, on a good month, can earn as much as P15,000-P20,000.

Paul Hipolito, an executive in the company, says that training is provided. "We give them the basics of entrepreneurship such as buying and selling, retailing, goal setting, product knowledge, and personal development training."

He adds that the hours are flexible, "A working student who is available only during evenings can spend three hours a night on this. This is also for career-shifters or aspiring entrepreneurs who don't know where to start."

Like all sales-related ventures, the income depends on time invested and energy expended. Sell a lot, and you earn a lot. "It's all in your efforts," says Hipolito. •

Call EC at 718-0884, 718-0998. Contact Camp Cali at xandrobr@rocketmail.com, and Pharmanex Philippines at 02-396 2185, 0918 936 7475 and 0922 836 7475.

Just say 'No!'

(from page 9)

More ways to wean your children from too much TV

1: Parents themselves should cut their TV viewing time drastically.

2. Sing your child to sleep; read books when the babies are 2 to 3 months old.

3. Talk to your children often and remove distractions that come between you. Talk to them in a modulated voice.

4. Expose your children to classical music as it fosters intellectual development and an appreciation for good music.

5. Increase the number of books read in one sitting as the child grows older.

6. Keep 2- to 6-year-old children active. Expose them to outdoor play and art activities.

7. Children aged 6 to 12 can engage in sports, dancing or playing of musical instruments.

8. At all stages of development, encourage children to read, read, read. Make books an alternative gift and reward.

9. Travel a lot and enjoy the experience more by talking to your children about the things you see, the interesting sites, cultural heritage, what they mean to them, and so on. **Teresa Morales**

Keeping Kids on Their Toes

For children aged 6 to 8, ballet may be the ideal summer course. It develops locomotor skills and musicality, not to mention focus, discipline and confidence

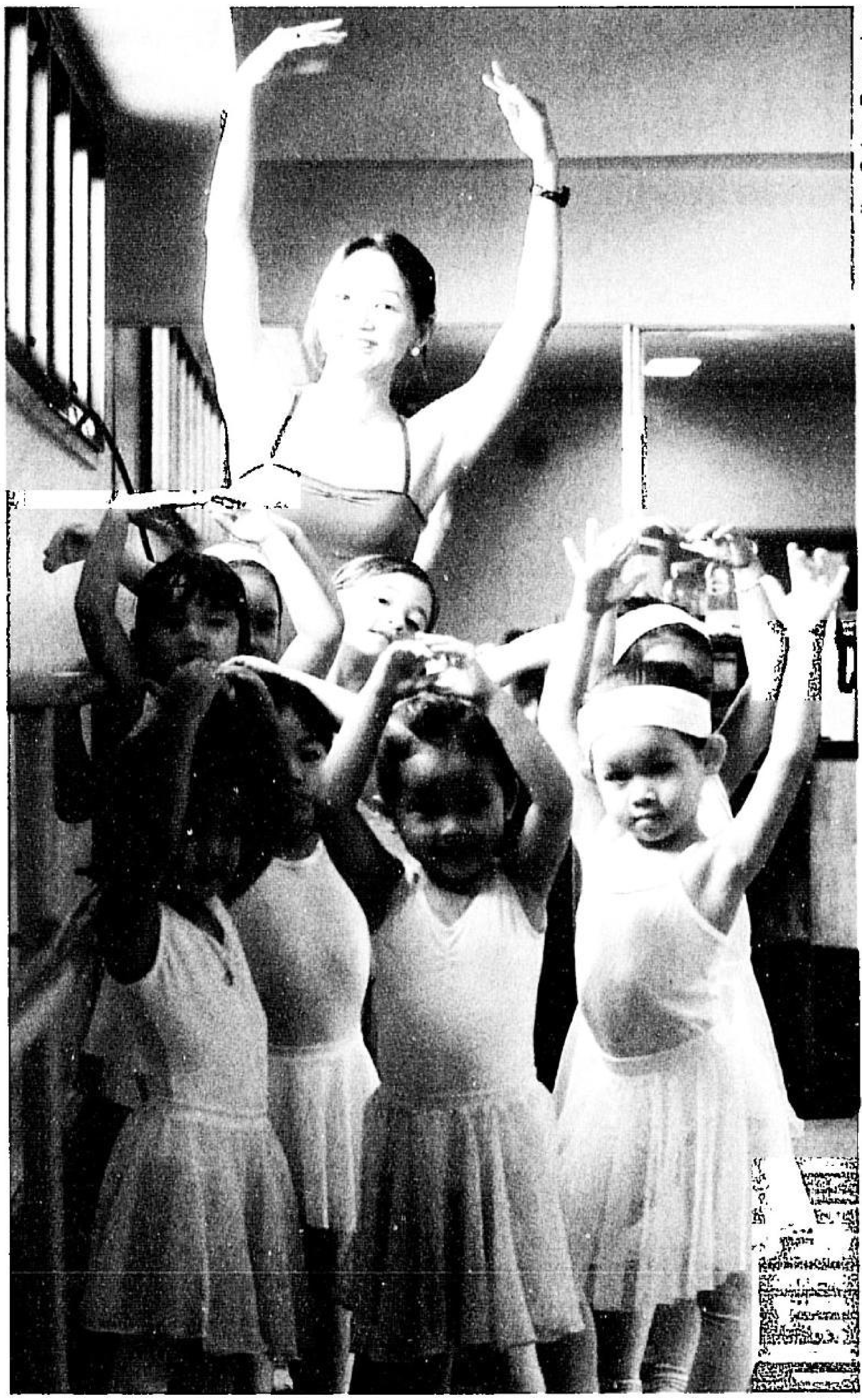
SUGAR and spice and all things nice. Nothing evokes this nursery rhyme better than the sight of chubby little girls in their cloud of tutus and pink-stockinged feet tiptoeing on stage. It's every other mother's favorite fantasy, and one that Maritoni Tordesillas brings closer to reality every summer.

For this ballet teacher, ballet is an ideal summer course for children. "It develops their locomotor skills and musicality, teaches them to use space and explore different forms of movement while helping them develop concentration, focus, discipline and confidence," she explains.

The best time to introduce children to ballet is when they're between 6 to 8 years, Tordesillas says, "when they already have an understanding of technique and their body is ready to undergo the rigid requirements of classical ballet." As early as 3, however, kids can join her creative movement program, she adds, "because this encourages them to explore and use their imagination through stories and games. It also sets the foundation for classical ballet later on."

Ballet is non-limiting and even children with disabilities can take it up "as long as they have the desire to learn," Tordesillas says. Parents of ballet-inclined kids need to provide a lot of support though, she adds, "from bringing their children to ballet classes, to watching their recitals and shows, to exposing them to professional ballet performances. I remember my mom taking me to a ballet performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and this made me dream of one day being on that same stage."

To make the most of children's ballet lessons, Tordesillas suggests more regular classes. "With the demands of school and homework, many kids are forced to cut back to once-a-week ballet classes," she notes. But to hasten one's progress, the minimum attendance should be two sessions a week, she adds.



Jim Guiao Punzalan

All together now: Maritoni Tordesillas and her young students

Admittedly, the stiff fees do discourage more regular attendance. A one-hour weekly session can cost from P1,800-2,400 a month, while a twice-weekly class can go from P3,400-4,400, depending on the venue, class size and whether or not the studio is air-conditioned. Add to this the cost of ballet slippers, leotards, tights and skirt, which average P1,400 for a beginner's complete uniform, and one gets an idea of how prohibitive ballet lessons can be.

But it is still a good investment, Tordesillas avers. "After all, ballet is a great foundation for any form of dance, so that even if students do not eventually pursue careers as ballet dancers, they can still take up any dance in the future and be good at it." **PAC**

Danspace Summer Dance Workshops will be held from April 2-May 31 at Dojo Gym, Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati. For inquiries, contact 0917-5268184 or log on to www. danspacemanila.com

A new independence movement

How to be your own hair stylist in five easy steps

Steven Lake with celebrities Cheska Garcia, Pauleen Luna, Ornussa Cadness and Bianca King

NOT too long ago, Filipino women relied on hairdressers to expertly tease their hair into a coif. These days, with women too busy even for a 20-minute salon "drive-by," having a bad hair day can become a major headache.

Enter Steven Lake, an 18-year veteran hairstylist who has worked on the locks of Hollywood A-listers such as Renee Zellweger, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Brooke Burke, and whose work has appeared in style bibles such as Elle and In-Style. Lake leads the Cream Silk Ministry of Style in collaboration with four of the country's top hairstylists in a DIY hair movement that encourages women to be independent of their stylist, at least for their day to day hair grooming. The four: Angelo Justin of Basement Salon, Roland dela Peña of Franck Provost, Joemar Enabacan of Salon de Manila at Somerset Hotel, and Cherry Reyes of Toni and Guy, agree with Lake that such independence is possible with the new Flexi-Hold Leave-ons from Cream Silk.

Lake also gives picture-perfect tips on how to get the best out of your conditioner:

1) Yes, you can have too much of a good thing. Just use a peso-sized drop of conditioner coupled with simple hand stroking for quick solutions to your hair problems.

2) Iron out the kinks with the Instant Straight Serum that straightens hair and gives it a frizz-free finish.

3) Women with limp hair can opt for Lite Fix Spritzer to boost volume and revitalize hair without the stiff dry look of hairsprays.

4) If you want a sleek modern look, the Smooth Defense Crème can tame your locks and shield it from sun damage.

5) For unmanageable layers that are difficult to style, there's Extra Control Gel Crème. Now style away.

The leave-on conditioners are designed for Asian, specifically Filipina, hair which, according to Lake, can be thick, coarse and a struggle to work with. But, he adds, "When you learn what to do and what to use, hair will always be beautiful."

So can a P40 bottle really replace your talented hairstylist? Why not try and find out? •

Out of mischief and out of your hair (from page 2)

- **Keep them cooking.** For young Nigella Lawsons and Wolfgang Pucks, the Center for Culinary Arts will hold its annual Young Chefs' Boot Camp. Asian, Western, Mexican, American, Italian, Mediterranean, Thai and Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese and Chinese cuisine will be tackled, as well as classical baking and pastry. The Boot Camp starts this April. For more information, call 426-4840, 428-4841 or e-mail marketing@cca-manila.com.

- **Keep them on a string.** For young kids who can't get enough of Sesame Street, the CCP offers a Puppetry and Ventriloquism Workshop. For inquiries, call 832-1125 locals 1702/1704/1705.

- **Keep them feeling energized.** For kids interested in gadgets and electronics, the Raya School will hold an Electronics for Kids workshop from May 15 to May 25. For inquiries, call 376-2184, text 0917-6287546 or email info@raya.org.ph. •

Figure It Out

85,261,000: Total Philippine population in 2005

38,817,100: Filipinos aged under 20 in 2005

45.53 percent: Percentage of Philippine population under 20 in 2005

10,422,900: Number of Filipinos ages 0-4, the largest age group in 2005

24.09 per thousand: Crude Filipino birth rate in 2005

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

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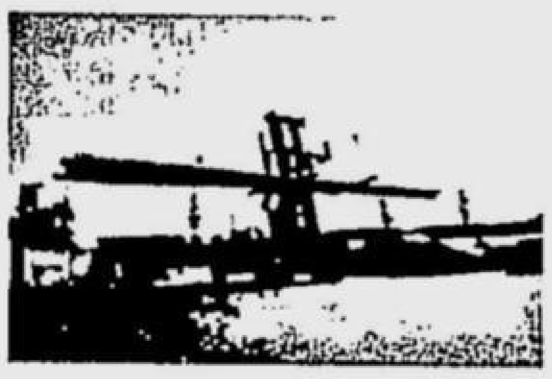

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The Harbour Centre port has a solid concrete ground pier of almost a kilometer in length with berthing capacity that can hold up to 12 vessels at a time.

With the new Habour Centre, port standards are definitely uplifted and customer costs are greatly minimized.

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What's all the bustle without the muscle? Harbour Centre boasts of its 80-ton heavy-lift capacity Gottwald Harbour Mobile Crane, as well as a total of 10 fully-owned forklifts, & shore cranes and more

Zero Pilferage.

At Harbour Centre, you enjoy not just world-class facilities, but world-class security as well. The port has a highly efficient security system that meets the standards of the International Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. The entire facility is well lighted, with 5 massive steel tower lights alongside the apron pavement

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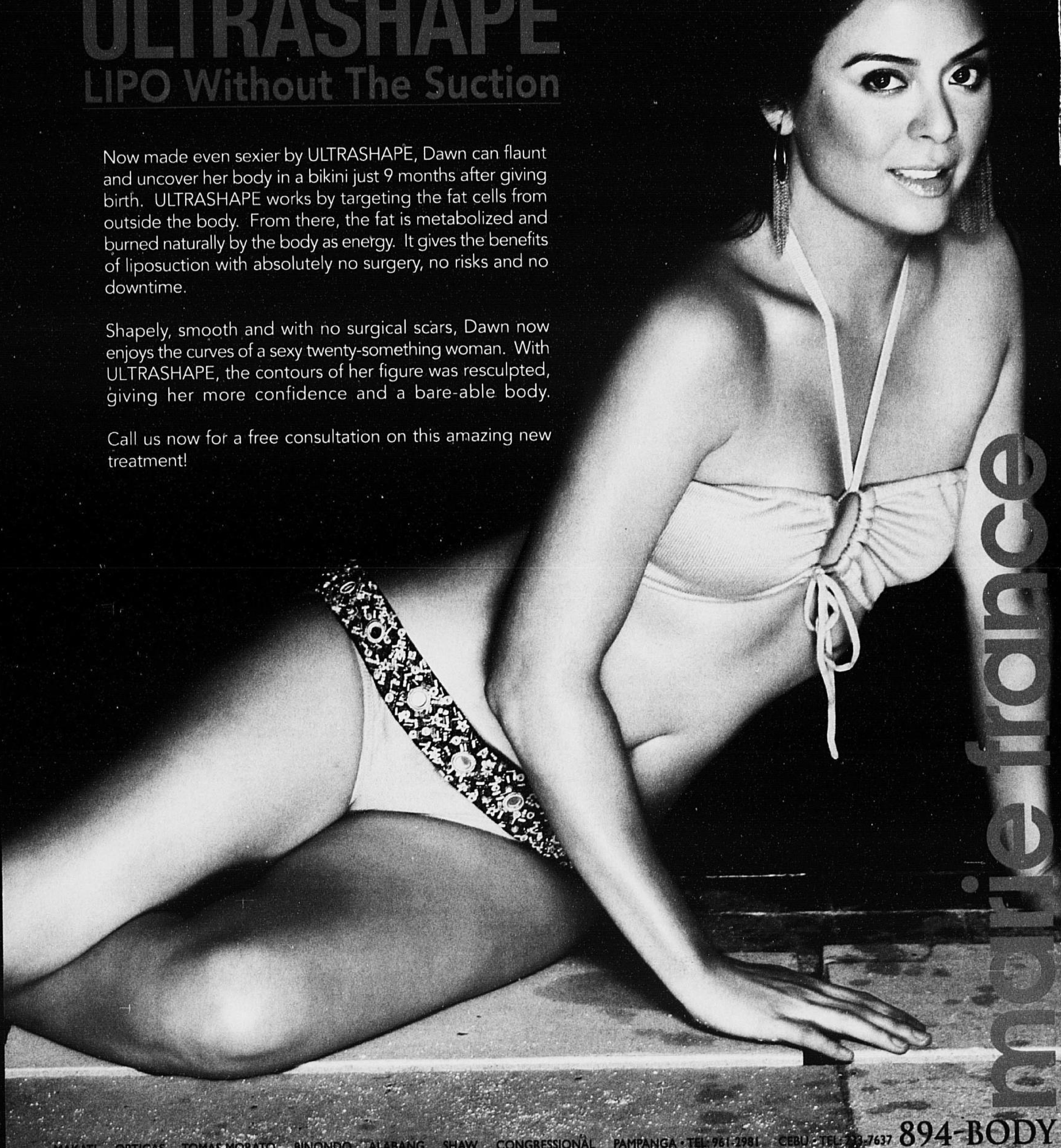

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